LEARNING / G1
Poverty and scarcity are no barriers to quality education

SPORTS / A31
Chess GM Bent Larsen essays last move

SPORTS / A24
China beats RP, captures World Cup of Pool title

LIFESTYLE / D1
Impressive showcase of autistic art

9/11 rites in NY: From day of unity to day of discord

NEW YORK—The ninth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was marked by the memorable and prayer services of the past, but also by events fated to envision just a year ago—heated demonstrations. Media from ground zero, political and religious tensions and an unmistakable sense that a once-unifying day was now replete with division.

The names of nearly 3,000 victims were read aloud by loved ones in a solemn reading that is the hallmark of the commemoration.

9/11 REMEMBRANCE A22

GMA-7 lists guidelines on hostage coverage

By Alcuin Papa

NO STORY is worth putting lives at risk.

Smarting from criticism that its coverage jeopardized the hostage rescue operation on Aug. 23 that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead, broadcast giant GMA-7 released on Thursday its new guidelines for the coverage of crisis situations.

GMA 7 A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, September 13, 2010 · 44 sections · Vol. 21 · No. 277 · P18

SEA OF PENAFRANCIA The 300-year-old image of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia journeys through a sea of humanity during the "traslacion," a ritual of atonement by male devotees who bring the icon from its home in Naga Basilica to Naga Metropolitan Cathedral for a nine-day novena. The image will return to the basilica in a pompous fluvial procession along the Naga River on the ninth day.

DAVID CHOCOY/INQUIRER.NET PHILIPPINES 2010

5 more execs linked to 'jueteng' payoffs

Lifestyle monitors ferret out tax cheats

ON SLOW DAYS, tax investigators comb through the obituary pages and stacks of sales invoices. On other days, they get lucky and get to track the infrequent Porsche or Ferrari.

The poorly paid accountants and lawyers are the unlikely shock troops of President Aquino's anticorruption campaign, exposing to public shame those accused of cheating the government out of billions of pesos in taxes.

Rewards are few and the threat to life and limb is ever present, but the Run Against Tax Evaders team of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is headed by civic duty, according to its chief prosecutor, Claro Ortiz.

"It's very exhausting and very dangerous because, you know, we tend to run after big names and big people. There is, of course some sort of risk," Ortiz said.

His 28 member special team of lawyers is currently handling 155 cases, including that of a

LIFESTYLE A12

CHEERDANCE CHAMPION Members of the University of the Philippines' Pep Squad sway a jaw-dropping segment of their colorful, fiesta-themed routine in Sunday's University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) cheerdance competition at Araneta Coliseum to bag the P100,000 grand prize. Far Eastern University settled for a runner-up finish, while University of Santo Tomas missed out third.

MIGUEL DE LEON OROZ

Cruz irked by Palace response

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

FIVE MORE officials in the "lower echelons" of the Aquino administration are receiving payoffs from "jueteng," Archbishop Emeritus Oscar Cruz, a crusader against the illegal numbers racket, said yesterday.

Cruz said the other day that two trusted officials of President Aquino, in charge of overseeing security matters, were accepting at least P2 million in monthly payoffs from jueteng operators.

"But [the number] is much more than two," Cruz told the Inquirer yesterday.

He said a fresh list gathered by his group, Kaunlaring Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, showed that at least five more local officials close to Mr. Aquino were receiving bribes from operators of the

5 MORE A22

Crisis over AFP, PNP pension fund

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CRISIS involving the pension fund of military and police personnel is looming, with the government facing the prospect of looking out more money for the retirement benefits of soldiers and policemen than for the salaries of their comrades in active service.

Under Malacañang's proposed national budget for 2011, P100.597 billion is allocated for the salaries of the 280,000 to 300,000 members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

A total of P93 billion is set aside for the pension of retired military and police personnel, or one-fifth of the projected budget deficit next year.

There are roughly 120,000 retirees in the AFP and 50,000 in the PNP.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the ways and means committee, said the P93-billion pension allocation for the military and police personnel was glaring when compared with the P22 billion in annual benefits given by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). More than 1 million government employees are members of the GSIS.

At this rate, Recto said the government would be paying more for retired soldiers and police personnel by 2019 than those in active duty.

"The government has to address the problem before it explodes in our faces and we end up spending more for the re-

CRISIS A12

For SSS exec, P7-M windfall isn't obscene

By Joey A. Gallaga
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—It's a country where more than a third of the population survives on less than P100 a day, Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol considers peanuts the P7 million he claimed to have re-

FOR SSS A11

Bond float report cheap propaganda

By Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Aquino's economic managers came to the rescue of his embattled administration with a report on Friday describing as a "milestone" the $1 billion (equivalent to P44 billion) raised from the sale of peso-denominated bonds outside the country.

ANALYSIS

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, who had been silent since Mr. Aquino's inauguration on June 30, popped his head out of the administration's bunker on it was being battered by a series of blunders in the first half of its first 100 days by shifting the focus to economic good news

BOND A24

WHOEVER abandoned this healthy baby boy! SEE STORY

Baby found in plane's trash bag

By Jerome Aning

THE PLANE from Bohol to Manila was carrying more than 200 passengers, mostly Filipinos. One of them was unsuspected—a newborn baby found inside a plastic trash disposal bag after the aircraft touched down in Manila.

The baby boy was alive and kicking.

A doctor on duty at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia) said the boy weighed three kilograms and measured 48 centimeters long.

An investigation has been launched.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), which operates

BABY A2

WEATHER FORECAST
FRIDAY: Scattered showers and thunderstorms all day. Maximum temperature of 33 degrees Celsius and minimum temperature of 25 degrees Celsius. Light to moderate winds from the southwest. Seas slight to moderate.

Second FRONTPAGE

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Housing scam signs surfaced in '08, but went on until May

By Tarra Quismundo
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Pampanga branch of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) discovered in early 2008 signs of irregularities in the two housing projects of the Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. in the province.

The surfaced as Inquirer sources in the agency discovered claims by Delfin Lee, Globe Asiatique president, that it was he who uncovered or reported three months ago the wrongdoing by some bankers as it processed loans of home buyers in Severa Bacolor and Severa Ilaya Subdivision through the Pag-Ibig Fund's Other Working Group (OWG) program.

The OWG allows those not formally employed to avail themselves of housing loans from Pag-Ibig Fund.

The agency's board of trustees approved the OWG on June 20, 2008.

Spurious borrowers (also known as "ipsteal buyers," whom signatures were brought

XEVERA Bacolor, a residential subdivision in Pampanga, is high on amenities, like a church and school, but low-overhead really sells: Houses.

to 48 existing buybacks (fallen-from) shall be settled within the grace-third period. In the case of the initial batch of 100 accounts which are already subject of buyback, this shall be repaid equally over a six-month period starting June 30, 2008," Quismundo said in the letter.

Sought for comment on Saturday, Quismundo said it was Globe dominant that asked the 100 account to be bought back.

He said the deficiencies showed that "the borrowers had not paid the full 24-month membership and thus was not yet a fully qualified member; the borrower's original ITF [income tax return] was not submitted within the given period; the borrowers had an unpaid multi-purpose loan; under a modified name and the like."

"There is no element of bad faith yet," said Quismundo.

"However, the alleged fraudulent loans with supposed false borrowers who were paid to borrow were only discovered this year by [the Pag-Ibig Fund] head office," Quismundo said.

He resigned in March 2009, citing his need to prepare for his congressional bid.

Sources in the agency said the talk over a fund area policies with then Vice President Noli de Castro, who chaired the Pag-Ibig Fund.

Another Pag-Ibig Fund source said junior officials reported to their superiors the discovery of more spurious buyers in September 2009.

"That explained why there were internal audits on concerns as well," the source said.

Between March and June 2009 alone, Globe Asiatique had taken out P114,334 million for 442 accounts in Severa Bacolor, the borrower's original ITF [income tax return] was not submitted within the given period; the borrowers had an unpaid multi-purpose loan; under a modified name and the like."

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Bongbong wavers; Serge firm on probe of realty firm

By Gil Cabacungan

THE SON OF the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos yesterday expressed reservations over plans to investigate a realty firm for irregularities in a housing program that tapped into hundreds of millions of pesos of Pag-Ibig funds.

Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said he would rather wait for Pag-Ibig to complete its investigation of allegedly spurious loans that Globe Asiatique, owned by businessman Delfin Lee, took out of Pag-Ibig to finance its realty projects in Pampanga.

Marcos said he would make up his mind later next week.

But while Marcos was wavering, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III has declared that his committee on banks, financial institutions and cooperatives would pursue a probe of Globe Asiatique.

"The bills under the jurisdiction of the committee on banks, it is a clear case of conflict of interest," said Osmeña in a statement.

He said his concern was how and why the developer was allowed to qualify the borrowers on behalf of Pag-Ibig through the Other Working Group (OWG) program.

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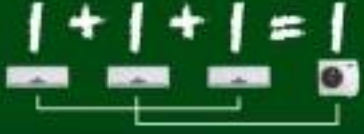

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123% hike in DSWD budget draws flak

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman lets out a big laugh as President Aquino's jokes at a recent gathering in Marsos' Hall in Malacañang Palace.

By Cil C. Cabuenyan Jr.

THE TWO-FOLD hike in the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has raised eyebrows even as allies of President Aquino in the Senate.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, Sen. Ralph Recto and Sen. Francis Escudero are questioning the ability and capacity of Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and her department to utilize the P94.3-billion budget for DSWD in 2011, up by 123 percent from P11.4 billion.

Based on the draft 2011 General Appropriations Act prepared by the Department of Budget and Management, the bulk of the DSWD budget has been earmarked for the P29.2-billion Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or "4Ps" initiated under the Arroyo administration. The state-cog is the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program which aims to grant a monthly stipend of up to P1,400 to each of 2.3 million identified poor families.

The DSWD will also implement a P2.6 billion feeding program for children, a P4.2 billion rice subsidy program, and an P886 million monthly stipend program for seniors aged 80 and above. Overall, the DSWD, with a staff of 2,500, will be serving at least 21 million Filipinos mostly on a daily basis.

Asid Escudero: "DSWD will be a virtual ATM machine. It will have a 'payroll' bigger than the national government. The question to Cabinet Secretary and her department is: are the P94.3-billion budget for DSWD in 2011, up by 123 percent from P11.4 billion.

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Asid Escudero: "DSWD will be a virtual ATM machine. It will have a 'payroll' bigger than the national government. The question to Cabinet Secretary and her department is: are they ready for such huge amount in terms of absorptive capacity among departments" and asked why Budget Secretary Florencio Abad Jr. insisted to give it more money to spend when, despite the department's track record showed its weaknesses in reaching its target.

Both Abad and Soliman are members of the Ryan 30 group of Cabinet secretaries and undersecretaries assigned en masse on 2009 to signify their loss of confidence to then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Recto, for his part, said the DSWD did not have an efficient monitoring system in place to keep track of disbursements in the CCT program which was raised from P5.8 billion to P25 billion.

He added that the DSWD had no yardstick to measure the achievements of the CCT which, as a project initiated in the Arroyo administration to pay recovery directly into the pockets of poor families, has not proven to be effective in reaching the parameters set under the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal.

Solon hits Noy for cut in budget for OFWs

By Michael Lim Ubac

MORE, NOT LESS, legal assistance fund for Filipino migrant workers are needed to help them have their cases handled abroad.

Valenzuela Rep. Rex Gatchalian yesterday opposed Palace's proposed to slash by nearly half the legal assistance fund...from P68 million in 2010 to P27 million in 2011—for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the proposed P1.645-trillion national budget for next year.

In a statement, Gatchalian said instead of cutting the legal assistance fund, the government should address what was depicted in the Migrant Workers Act.

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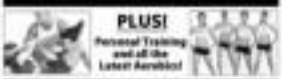

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Tourists to return soon, says DOT chief

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Tourism (DOT) has assured business owners in Boracay island that it will launch promotional and marketing campaigns in several countries destined to stay by the Aug. 23 hostage standoff in Manila.

Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim, who was in Boracay to meet with members of business groups in the island resort, said the department has already embarked on hour-key meetings with Chinese officials and tourism officers as part of efforts to bring back tourists.

"We are confident that the market will come back in a short time and we are being more aggressive in our promotions and marketing campaigns," Lim told reporters in a telephone interview on Sunday.

He said, however, that the government was still awaiting the report of an investigating committee that was formed to look into what went wrong in the Aug. 23 hostage-taking case.

The DOT in Western Visayas earlier reported that resorts and hotels lost at least P10 million because of canceled bookings by Chinese and Hong Kong tourists.

Lim said officials were optimistic that the tourism would come back after the investigation has been completed.

"We want to fix the wounds heal first," he said.

A GROUP of 25 Taiwanese conducts a sit-in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 waiting for their connecting flight to Boracay, a sign that the Philippines continues to be a tourist destination as for as non-Hong Kong Chinese are concerned. AFP/File

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'Mang Inasal' improves economy of a small town

MAASIN, Iloilo – In the late 90s, there was such a glut of bamboos in the south Iloilo town of Miagao that the mayor decided to save it was a tourism attraction with a bamboo-themed festival called Tikogan.

Even though the festival's popularity picked up, it did not make much of a dent on the oversupply to such a point that it was the buyers who were dictating the prices, much to the discouragement of the Miagao farmers spread out in 30 barangays.

By 2007, all this was a thing of the past where what used to be grass taken for granted is now a precious commodity called "green gold" — thanks to the expansion of Mang Inasal, the determination of Mayor Marvie Mariano Malmoto Sr., and the industry of more than 10 barangays supplying the bamboo sate sticks.

Supplying bamboo sticks

Every week, Bolo Kawayan Marketing (BKM) delivers an equivalent of a thousand bamboo poles coming from six contractors who in turn employ more than 100 households to cut and process the three types bamboo barbeque sticks used for barbecuing chicken legs and other parts, and the round and two-ring for the pork barbecue.

The "green gold" is a blessing for Miagao's poor families that comprise majority of the town's total population of 43,000 who used to rely on subsistence farming.

The first supplier of BKM, 55-year-old Marina Molina, from Brgy. Bulacan was able to make two children graduate from college off income of the income that comes from the "green gold."

We are thankful for the opportunities that Mang Inasal has given us; they have helped us many families," says Molina who earns a profit of P10,000 or more a week from the sales of bamboo barbecue sticks alone.

Marina and her fellow contractors earn a commission of at least a penny per stick. The rest is used to pay for the bamboos and the workers. Marina has shared her blessings to friends and relatives like Mia Bas from Sara, Aklan, on Manila who started using bamboo contractors only in July this year as Mang Inasal's expansion has created a need for more barbecue sticks. "The income has helped us a lot. We used to plant and sell vegetables and have other sidelines just to survive," says Marina. A 14-year-old mother of four from Brgy. Naraba.

(SMAYING GREEN SOLD) Marina Bas, president of Miagao Bamboo Growers and Marketing Cooperative, and an employee showing the split bamboo sticks used in the Mang Inasal barbecue sticks. (Photo courtesy of BKM)

One opportunity begets another

It was in 2005 when Mayor Malmoto brought his fellow officials to Bacolod to see a bid to help Miagao's farmers deal with the ever-popularity of bamboos. By 2006, BKM was already supplying bamboo chopsticks to several Chinese restaurants in Manila.

Mayor Malmoto saw an opportunity to supply Mang Inasal in 2007 when he noticed that the barbecue chain had only one kind of barbecue stick and offered to supply it.

What happened next was a total and great success by way of using the bigger of the bamboo products and preferred the method of cooking up with barbecue sticks that were pierced and roasted live.

BKM has 40 workers and five sets of machines worth several millions that work on the cutting, splitting, slicing, drying and polishing of the bamboo poles.

Even though 4,000 hectares of Miagao's total land area of 17,000 hectares is planted to the bamboo and "counts above all would supply only" for the needs of Mang Inasal's barbecue sticks, forcing BKM to get other bamboos from nearby towns.

Expanding with Mang Inasal

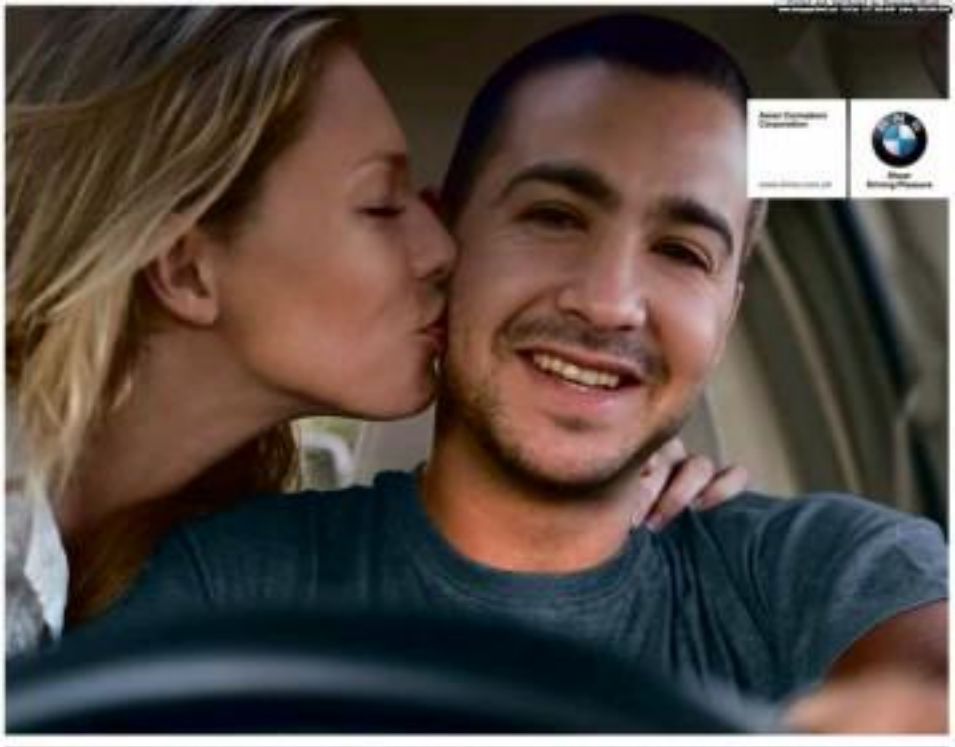
At the BKM factory in Brgy. Naslo which happens to be beside the house of Mayor Malmoto, the bamboo suppliers led by Marina discuss the Mayor's request for improved weed-trimming after he noticed that some bamboo poles were not up to standard.

"We are also asking our men to keep up with Mang Inasal's brand of quality service and work more aggressively, as we also look for more bamboo growers and suppliers and nurture those who are already working with us," says Mayor Malmoto.

BKM's work of improving the lives of farmers has been noticed by the Department of Trade and Industry that has recognized the company as a finalist for the Outstanding OTOP (One Town One Product) Awards last Oct. 2, 2006.

However, the group's source of pride for Mayor Malmoto and Marina's bamboo suppliers is their being a major partner of the country's leading fast-food barbecue chain that has remained loyal to them.

MAYOR Marvie Malmoto Malmoto explains the 5-step process of preparing bamboo sticks for the successful sale of Mang Inasal.



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Baby found in trash bag inside plane's toilet

Passenger #1

the Nais, said to medical team had named the infant "George Fresca."

The infant's CF refer to the code name assigned to Staff Ad. Rabonit's principal Bag carrier, by the International Air Transport Association.

The baby was found on Flight CF-324, which landed at Nais Terminal 1 at 11:10 a.m.

MIAA media affairs chief Connie Bregog said the boy was immediately given full medical attention, with medical personnel pending their concession to clay baby clothes, medicines, bottles, and milk for him.

"Apparently, the baby was born on the plane," she said.

George Fronton was later turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which has become his custodian.

Asked by reporters if the boy was "a foreigner," the duty doctor and pediatrician, Dr. Ma. Theresa Ateres, said: "It doesn't seem so. He looks Filipino."

According to a report from the MIAA medical office, the aircraft cleaners found the garbage bag containing the baby at the plane's toilet at around 11:30 a.m.

Her warning to her crew, Gulf Air security agents Tristan Umanzor and Noel Frisnes loaded the bag onto a tow truck and rushed the infant to a medical clinic at Terminal 1.

The medical report described the baby as "wrapped in blood-stained tissue paper napkins.

The doctors said they first cleaned up the baby's mouth—and the boy gave a good cry. His breathing and heartbeat were also normal.

Search for mother

The baby was cleaned to prevent infection. He was shown to have healthy pinkish skin, good reflexes and normal tendons.

Doctors injected the baby with 40 units of anti-tetanic, and applied ointment to his eyes.

The attending doctors were Ateres and Dr. Ma. Caridad Ijan Nisay, an ipot of Manila and.

Alfredo Vasquez and Danny Gonzaelos, MIAA administrators, led the turnover of the baby to a DSWD contingent headed by Maria Lanie Tabios.

The MIAA is tracking the passenger who could have given birth to the baby or could have carried the boy into the plane. As a question of the plane showed that two adjacent passenger seats had blood smears.

Airport officials said that while they had the name or names of the occupants of the seats, it was also possible that the woman who gave birth might just have transferred to the seat.

Gulf Air officials were unavailable for comment.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said the was outraged by what happened and would order officials to try to locate the infant's mother, who could be criminally charged.

Soliman said the baby would be turned over to the mother's relatives or put up for adoption.

The DSWD said it would ask the police to investigate.

Delia Rosete, DSWD-NCR director said the investigation would be part of the process for the baby's possible adoption.

The process includes informing the public of the birth for boy so as to gather more information about him.

The baby will be put in foster care "if nobody claims him," Rosete said.

Under state care

Social welfare and airport officials gave a conflicting report on how the boy was actually born. While the MIAA media affairs office said the boy seemed to have been born during the flight, Bregog said the report she received from her staff was that he "was a few days old."

Rosete said the baby had been taken to the emergency and Study Center for Children run by the department.

"The state will take care of the baby," she said. With a report from Rosete, Alave and AP

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ALASKA

Naga gives Raj rousing welcome, awards, feast

"Last night, the candidates were so inspired by the presence of Venus..."

NAGA CITY—This city put up its best front for the homecoming of Venus Raj since the even fourth runner up in the recently concluded Miss Universe beauty pageant in Las Vegas.

Raj was guest of honor at the Miss Bicolana—Sir 2010, a beauty title which she held in 2007.

"Last night, the candidates were so inspired by the presence of Venus," said Councilor Cecil...

Raj received a special farewell citation award from Naga Mayor John G. Bongat for bringing pride to Bicol. *Paul John C. Reyes and Shima M. Barrameda, Inquirer South-ern Luzon*

MILF to announce today members of its peace panel

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will announce today the composition of its five-member peace panel, three days after the end of Ramadan.

Mohammad Ameen, chair of the MILF secretariat, refused to give clues as to the composition of its new panel but said "they are capable and very knowledgeable on the Mindanao Moro issue."

Ameen said the MILF central committee would on Monday in observing new peace panel members the following—empowering commitment to the Moro cause, knowledge of the ideological, political and organizational line of the MILF and capability to engage in serious and in-depth discussion of issues.

Last July, the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) in the Philippines said MILF peace panel was dissolved after government peace panel members voluntarily stopped duties when Ghazali Macapaal Arroyo ended her term as president. *Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

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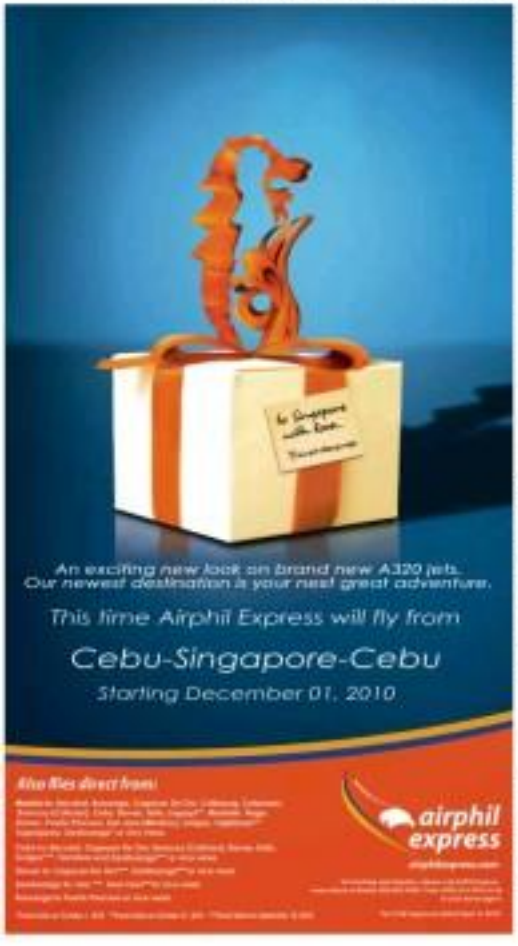

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Long way to go for education targets of gov't

BAGUIO CITY—The Aquino administration is capping major scrupulousness and every parent-teachers' association in the country to help raise enrollment and keep children in school at an annual rate of 3 percent for the next five years.

President Aquino needs the votes effect to send and keep every Filipino child in school by 2016 and make sure they finish primary education.

The latest Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (Flemmsy) showed slight improvements in the population's literacy with nine out of 10 Filipinos functionally literate.

Rating game

Metro Manila topped the regions with a 94.6 percent functional literacy rating, followed by Cordillera with 93.5 percent, Central Luzon, 92.1 percent and Ilocos Region, 88.6 percent. The lowest scores belonged to Muslim Mindanao was at the bottom with 71.6 percent literacy.

Carmelita Ericta, administrator of the National Statistics Office (NSO), said reports believe Filipinos between 10 and 64 years old should be reasonably literate. This age group comprises 65 percent of the population (projected as 66 million by 2010).

Functional literacy

The 2008 Flemmsy also showed that 58 million (88 percent) of that age group are functionally literate or can read, write and operate mathematical equations as they go about their day to day activities.

In the 2003 literacy survey, 84.3 percent of that age group ranked as functionally literate.

The 2008 report said 96 percent of the same age group have basic literacy or command necessary skills in reading and writing. NSO's 2003 Flemmsy established that 93 percent of the same age group had basic literacy skills.

Long way to go

But the 2008 data meant that government will has a long way to go to meet its targets, said Edilen de la Serie, president of the Education for All Foundation (EFA) and the Education Network Philippines (Ednet).

Ericta said the survey results showed a "reasonably high" literacy rate for this generation, but the details revealed why it was not much higher.

There were 29 million young Filipinos aged 6 to 20 in 2008 and 11.5 million of them did not attend school, she said.

She said 14 percent (2.7 million) of youths who did not go to school claimed they could not afford tuition, 31 percent (12.7 million) elected to find work and 29 percent (3.4 million) had no interest in school.

She said educational attainment helped shape literacy. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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John Chrysostom

1st Reading: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33
Gospel: Lk 7:1-10

When Jesus had finished teaching to the people, he went to Capernaum.

There was a captain whose servant was sick and near to death, a man very dear to him, who, when he heard about Jesus, he sent some elders of the Jews to persuade him to come and save his servant's life. The elders came to Jesus and begged him earnestly, saying, "He deserves to do this for him, for he loves our people and even built a synagogue for us."

Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the captain sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to welcome you under my roof. You see I didn't approach you myself. Just give the order and my servant will be healed. For I myself, a junior officer, give orders to my soldiers and I say to this one 'Go,' and he goes, and to the other 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant 'Do this,' and he does it."

On hearing these words, Jesus was filled with admiration. He turned and said to the people who were following him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." The group sent by the captain went back to his house, where they found that the servant was well.

Commentary

Nobleman (Blue Bird) servant who was very dear to him, the servant was sick and about to die. When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his servant. They came to Jesus and begged him earnestly. This man really deserves your help. He loves our people and he himself built synagogue for us.

Reading across the Analogy of Life. His heart did make it impossible for our generosity to reach our desires for us.

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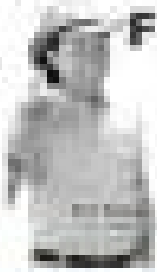

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Usang ay responsibilidad na dapat gawindigan.

teacher killing, police ask here

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Impeach the Ombudsman

EDITORIAL

THE NEW administration has found itself in a bind. While pursuing its vow to weed out corruption and correct the mistakes of the past, it also has to preside the semblance of objectivity and statesmanship that has made it queasy about intervening in such threats.

A case in point is the snowballing move in the House of Representatives to impeach Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez for betrayal of public trust, which she allegedly committed when she sat on the graft cases against the Arroyo administration that had appointed her. Some administration allies in the House of Representatives are moving for the impeachment of the Ombudsman, but they're waiting for the new Aquino administration to rally the coalition in the lower chamber in order to scrounge the numbers for the impeachment. However, according to Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda, President Aquino is keeping his hands off the case lest it be seen that the Palace is bent on a "payback" against the Ombudsman. Malacañang's sudden stance of projecting itself as being above the fray could be fatal.

Consider that exactly a year ago, in September 2004, without even counting the votes of the pro-impeachment camp, the House ethics committee, then under a pro-Arroyo leadership, junked a similar complaint filed by Akbayan party list. It was a brazen exercise of the tyranny of the majority, many of whom have switched to the new administration coalition now that the political winds have changed. A call by President Aquino for parties to rally behind the impeachment of Gutierrez would not only be a big leap forward in fulfilling his campaign promise to lop off the tentacles of corruption that have smothered good governance in the past; it would also crack the whip on the interlopers and turncoats, and press them to show their loyalty and true colors.

The charges against Gutierrez are substantial; only the insanely stupid would deny she had shielded the former president, her family close associates and officials from charges of corruption, misbehavior in office and abuse of authority. The grounds cited in the impeachment complaint against her for betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution include deliberately ignoring the Supreme Court's findings which voided the P1.3-billion rapidly deal of Mega Pacific with the Commission on Elections under Benjamin Abalos; "deliberate and ineffectual" inaction on the collusion and corruption involved in the World Bank bidding of road projects; filing late and defective information that undermined the cases against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez who had been charged with extorting money from former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez; "gross inexcusable inaction" on the P1-billion fertilizer fund scam cases filed by the Senate, lawyer Frank Chavez and murdered journalist Marlene Esperat; failing to promptly resolve the "Euro generals" dollar-smuggling case despite overwhelming evidence and admission by the PNP comptroller, Director Eliseo de la Paz; and dismissing and suspending local government officials who were political opponents also, such as Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas and Sarangani Gov. Enrique Garcia.

Gutierrez's disgraceful behavior knows no bounds. She has made tumultuous descend to lower depths of shame by running ads on government television stations where she quotes Aquino's presidential campaign slogan, "Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap"—with deadpan earnestness. She's using the Aquino platform to reinvent and save herself.

Meanwhile, the old guards and Arroyo loyalists in the House are singing a different tune. They're protesting against the tyranny of members now that the impeachment complaint against Gutierrez is set to be revived and the Aquino administration is bent on putting up a Truth Commission to dig up and expose the dirt of the past administration.

It is not fair not agree to the exercise of the tyranny of numbers to suppress the truth, as was done time and again in the 14th Congress. But there is no tyranny when the majority uses its numerical superiority with the force of straight logic to serve the highest interest of the nation.

Let the numbers be summoned and bury the dregs of the past.

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How much do PAL cabin attendants get?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FLIGHT Attendants and Stewards Association (fasap) of the Philippine Airlines (PAL) has filed a notice of strike against the money-losing flag carrier because the airline refused to give in to their demands for more benefits. PAL has been losing heavily, as do most airlines—with the exception of some Middle Eastern airlines that are heavily subsidized by their oil-rich governments—because of the world economic crisis.

Public sympathy is usually with the workers; management is often painted as justly hungry employers exploiting their employees. PAL is no exception. In addition, PAL is accused of having a "boardroom mentality" for having a policy of refusing to flight attendants when they reach the age of 40 because it wants its attendants to always look young and beautiful to transport sun, Southwest Airlines of the United States has grandmothers as flight attendants. If Southwest can do it, why can't PAL? After all, many women are still pretty and sexy at 40 and 50 and older.

But that is only the propaganda part. Even if PAL raises the retirement age of its flight attendants, fasap will still not be happy because it is asking for: pay increases and more perks.

But PAL can no longer afford the pay increases or some of its series of financial losses due to the economic slowdown which has frozen and froze people travelling. In the last two years alone, PAL lost 4,000 dollar bounties of traversing between PAL fasap those increases.

■ Struggle-market demand due to the global economic crisis.

■ The downgrading of the Philippines to Category 2 by the US Federal Aviation Administration.

■ The ban on all Philippine carriers from flying into European airspace imposed by the European Union.

■ Fight-hard prices.

■ The liberal game of air traffic rights by the Philippine government to foreign carriers.

■ The inadequate and below-par infrastructure and equipment in major domestic airports.

What's more, PAL's cabin crews are not exactly getting peanuts. The cabin attendants' package of benefits far exceeds those of practically all other flight attendants in the mainland 12th and 16th month pay, travel, medical and uniform benefits, cabin attendants also get allowances that rival the allowances and bonuses of the ubiquitous diplomats and foreign "experts" and other GOCCs (government-owned and -controlled corporations). PAL cabin crews receive the following in addition to their regular salaries:

- Productivity allowance;
- Transportation allowance;
- First class hotel accommodations;
- Per diems;
- Meal subsidy;
- Field trip allowance;
- Training pay;
- Temporary duty pay;
- Tour of duty incentive (beyond 14 hours of duty);
- Long haul flight incentive;
- Bar cabin commission (In flight duty free sales). PAL cabin crews get the highest rate of in-flight sales commission compared to other airlines' cabin crews;
- Flight diversion allowance;
- Relief pay;
- Head hotel allowance.

Cabin attendants also cannot claim that they are overworked. They are entitled to overtime and periods under their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA):

■ One rest day in Manila before a long-haul flight;

■ Two and a half rest day in an outlying station after a long-haul flight;

■ Days off equivalent to half the number of days away from Manila;

■ Five extra days off after enjoying several days of vacation before reporting for duty;

■ The cabin crews are entitled to rest periods during a 12-hour flight (for example, a flight to Europe or the United States). In the B-747 airplanes, where the passengers are asleep, the cabin crew can also rest. For crew while resting, they can productively pay. Whether or not the flight is full, they still get the completed per diem (P1,000 allowance).

■ Under the rules of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, flight attendants can be assigned only 100 flying hours a month, but actual assignments of averages only 65 hours.

■ PAL does not discriminate against pregnant flight attendants. Preventing them from flying is for the safety of mother and child. Many cabin attendants delay revealing that they are pregnant because they consider maternity benefits provided by law, even at running P30,000 of their 100 benefits to cover expenses. Any earned vacation leaves may be used before applying the pregnancy and maternity leaves. Similarly, if one has a pregnancy beyond there, the pregnant cabin attendant is no longer entitled to any pay (no work, no pay) just like any ground staff members.

■ From August 2005 to March 2006, a total of 61 cabin attendants were on maternity leave (or roughly one pregnancy every six days). Almost all of them returned to work again despite allegations of some work rules or discriminatory practices.

As for the regular pay, the cabin crews' pay (which is all inclusive because of the peculiarity of their job), the domestic cabin attendant gets on the average around P36,000 a month, while an international cabin attendant gets P60,000 a month. The flight pursers gets P60,000 monthly.

As for the retirement policy, the 40-year retirement age is part of the PAL-Fasap CBA signed in 2001. Those who had worked for the CBA and are, like years later, long-time in the province to do maintenance.

PAL management said it is willing to discuss the retirement age provisions in the next CBA negotiations for all three unions.

Additionally, management said major airlines in the region have similar young retirement ages for their cabin crew. PAL has to compete with these carriers that put a high premium on image, especially on Southeast like the cabin crew, transparent said.

PAL notes the ruling public's understanding, saying that any setback to the negotiations table and not cause undue public alarm with their threat of a strike.

Hands-on

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

P-NOY 4949 asked several times last Thursday why he didn't appear during the hostage situation. One said Tony Blair did so after the train bombings in 2005 in London. Another asked if he was a chairman or president.

P-Noy replied that the president has no business appearing in a hostage situation. That he goes to Luneta, or appeared on TV, Rolando Mendoza might have asked for more. That he goes there, he might have caused Mendoza's sense of self-worth and added to his substance of persecution and/or grandeur.

His philosophy, P-Noy said, which he learned from his parents, is to know how to delegate powers. You cannot do everything. Delegate what you can't do and what others can do better. Their bosses are not supposed to be the ones to get involved in the nitty-gritty of the operations of their subordinates.

That is a valid distinction. I've been stating all this time as well that though P-Noy was right not to have appeared during the hostage crisis, he was wrong not to have appeared immediately afterward, especially with that incident turning into a bloodbath, especially with that had dream turning into a nightmare. The nation was stunned, the nation was shocked, the nation was aghast. With everyone feeling the present tense yet to come. The President should have appeared then, to manage fears, to take charge, to appease a wounded populace. The President should have appeared then, to remind the world the country had a president.

That is why the distinction between chairman and president is valid. It's not the concept of "hands-on." The term has been repeatedly used without people really knowing what they mean by it. What do you mean when you say P-Noy should be "hands-on"?

I myself use it in these terms: A president has one task. One is to keep the engine of government running. Two is to appease the passengers of whom they are going. One is to make sure the country moves, develops, progresses, or at least become the (leader) one with the country that public officials do not steal, the coffers are replenished and criminals fly. Two is to make sure the people are motivated, animated, enthusiastic, or at least hopeful. Hopeful that with this country, that the people are not cynical, inured to murder and mayhem, left to look out for Number One. One is to distribute the burdens of the earth when the things are up and to help the poor when the things are down. Two is to inspire the people when the impossible dream has become possible and to hold the people's hand when the impossible had dream has become a living nightmare.

The president should be invisible when doing the first, he should be very visible when doing the second.

Were the last two presidents hands-on by those terms?

Not at all. GMA had her hands only on the reins of power, which she clung to with all her might, while her husband had his hands only on the cookie jar, ribbon in fact did the opposite. She was extremely visible when proclaiming how she single-handedly plucked the country out of the global recession, even mustering an entire campaign to tell the people ourselves to condemn us their handsome. Our exercise in self-congratulation because if the people jeopardize their betterment, then they do not need to be told about it.) The only time she tried to be invisible while micromanaging things was when she called up execs with her change request, which discovery turned it into her most visible attempt to be invisible ever.

As to Erap, well, what he had his hands on was not the reins of power but the cookie jar. Both "thick and thin" who outside of it which was constantly increasing.

P-Noy has not been remiss in the first. He has done things quietly as far as running government goes—as has his Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita rightly saying anybody who offers it ought to be delegated. Where he has been remiss in that aspect is not just in delegating authority to the wrong persons, as he has, still admits, it is in delegating authority to no persons at all. Let's start naming anybody who's in charge of something about. You have three bosses in your communications department, two bosses in your Department of the Interior and Local Government, and God knows how many other bosses in your other departments, you are asking me to name. You have many people in charge, you still have no one in charge.

But more than that, it's to the second P-Noy has been remiss. It's in the naming the nation's department. It's in the calming the people's nerves. It's in reassuring. It's in the reminder to the world to have a president. The lack a particularly felt because P-Noy is seen as the people's president, the Edsa president, the hope after the despair president. To whom much is given, much is expected. The nation isn't just looking up to P-Noy to make things better, it is looking up to him to make things grander. That was why his State of the Nation Address was time. The nation isn't just waiting to be informed, it is wanting to be inflamed. It isn't just looking up to P-Noy to be informed, it isn't just looking up to P-Noy to be inspired. It isn't just wanting to be told what things are being done for it, it is wanting to be told what things it can do for itself.

The people do not just need to have their fears improved in mysterious ways, they need to have the fears of their hope translated themselves and them.

P-Noy discovers that, and he will have his hands on the pulse of the nation.

About Muslims and impeachment

SOUNDING BOARD
Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

TERRORISM two controversies raging in the United States involving attitude toward Muslims. One is the opposition to the erection of a mosque near Ground Zero, the site of the 9/11 tragedy. The other is the threat of a small Christian minority to burn a Koran burning event. Both controversies involve an assessment of Muslims as enemies of the United States.

In my own country, it is difficult to exclude as a Muslim sentiment from the opposition to the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain which the Supreme Court has declared to be constitutional. This is an opposition which not have an influence on the revised effort to seek a solution to the Mindanao problem.

I know very little about the Muslim world. Hence, I must rely on what little I have read on the subject. Recently, I came across an article subtitled "All All Muslims Think Alike." The author says, indeed "the article with the revolutionary name "In the heat of this antipathy [in the US], it is important to acknowledge that just as the West today is more religiously diverse than our Europe-tribal Pope Urban II called for the First Crusade almost a thousand years ago, so too is the Muslim world. You may call it Muslim Think Alike," the author says, reduce the Islamic tradition to its most politicized and militant events. Such a simplification needs the richness of that religious tradition."

Sunni Muslims comprise 90 percent of the Muslim world. The rest are Shiite, and one percent who are neither Sunni nor Shiite. What is remarkable, however, is that the Sunni Muslims are divided into three streams. There is first the "fundamentalist" strand consisting of a small minority said to be influenced by the conservative understanding of Islam propagated by Saudi Arabia. There is a tendency to generalize Muslims under this category.

A second group, larger than the first, is culturally secularized and influenced more by socio-economic and political forces than by the Koran. They are mostly found in Turkey, the Balkans, the former Soviet Asian republics and Africa.

The third and largest "are people of faith put off-putting in a country traditions whose roots stretching back almost two millennia. They are the great Sunni majority in their world. they can best be described as encountering their faith in a world that is only partly Islamic. These are Muslims for whom faith and culture are not completely overwritten. Most Arabs (Israelis excepted) and most South Asian Muslims fit into this category."

I believe it is safe to say that the vast majority of the Muslims in the Philippines belong in this third category. The few Muslims I have known in the Ateneo Law School have had no difficulty living with and making friends in a heavily Christian environment. Many Muslims also study in Ateneo schools in the South. This fact makes me hopeful that the effort to achieve peace and prosperity in Muslim Mindanao will succeed.

* * *

Impeaching the Ombudsman. As in the case of the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada, I am sometimes asked what the outcome of the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez would be. My usual answer is that it is hard to predict what the outcome will be.

The reason for my cautious answer is not that I am prejudiced in favor of the Ombudsman innocent. Rather, it is because of the peculiar nature of the impeachment process. The impeachment process is not a judicial process characterized by the cold neutrality expected of judges. Rather it is a political process more often not characterized by bias. If the issue is for the accused, whether guilty or not, the impeachment process will not prosper.

In Philippine history the only impeachment process that reached trial stage was the impeachment of Estrada. Even then it did not succeed.

In the case of the impeachment attempts against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, none could go beyond the stage of the indispensable first hurdle in her favor in the House of Representatives.

Of course, someone once not find herself in the same senior position that GMA found herself in. In fact, considering the fluidity of political alignments in the Philippines, one might say that Ombudsman is now in a precarious position. But she can find protection in another aspect of the political nature of impeachment.

Impeachment trustees are just a legal decision but also a policy decision. When members of the House deliberate on whether to impeach or not, and when senators deliberate on whether to vote "guilty" or "not guilty," they consider not only whether there is evidence to support impeachment but also whether, under existing circumstances, the preferred policy should be to go on to impeachment.

I want to stress the "go on" approach in Presidential Aquino's hands-off attitude toward the impeachment of Ombudsman. This may be because of his desire to achieve national unity.

Such attitude, it must be said, has foundation in the text of the Constitution itself. The text says that the impeachable officers "may be removed." The language is permissive and not mandatory. Hence, the House can debate about the needed weight of evidence to impeachment—whether proof beyond reasonable doubt, or preponderance of evidence, or substantial evidence—to set of possession impeachment. What is decisive is the politician's gut feel of what should be the prevailing policy under the circumstances.

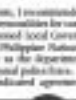
It is also noteworthy that while a minority of the House vote should can send an official to trial by the Senate, a minority of the Senate (also one-third) is enough to acquit. Clearly the premise is in favor of security of tenure.

Heads must roll

IN AN earlier column on the Sontags cases, I recommended the sacking of one or two high-ranking personalities for command responsibility. I particularly mentioned local Government Secretary Jesse M. Robredo and Philippine National Police Chief Jesus Verzosa. One serves as the department head while the other commands the national police force.

Most of the comments I received indicated agreement with my recommendation. One of my friends told me that I was being unfair to the hotels. I suggest his name and I understand where he is coming from.

REVEILLE
Ramon J. Farrales



After reading later reports on the bungling of the crisis and listening to President Aquino being interviewed by media on the program "Harapan," I am now even more convinced that Robredo has no place in President Aquino's Cabinet.

Let me explain.

Robredo, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee for government service, was appointed by President Aquino as local government secretary in the first sign of trouble in Robredo's area of responsibility, he would blame the President for not entrusting local governments officials or something to that effect, and to leave police matters to his undersecretary, Rico Puno. For whatever reason this was done, the action of P-Noy clearly indicated a lack of confidence in Robredo as local government secretary. One must wonder why President Aquino appointed him in the position to the first place. Did that is perhaps another story and it says a lot here politics in this country can make things difficult for any chief executive.

At any rate, having been told in any out of police matters, Robredo as local government secretary should have immediately sent in a letter of resignation. Instead he talked publicly about "learning to the good angels and serving at the pleasure of the President," even as the President himself announced that he was being kept in "an acting capacity" because of "differences in style and philosophy."

While having "good angels" speaking up for you is great, one must not forget that a Cabinet position involves having the complete trust and confidence of the appointing power. If there are signs to the contrary, as in this case, it is best to step down and to leave gracefully. Robredo should not feel unwanted. He has much to offer to areas of serving his country. It does not have to be in a government position.

As I mentioned in an earlier column, in 1995 as a result of the Plan Continuation Commission, Executive Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles and Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor had to leave their positions. President Fidel V. Ramos accepted their offers of resignation. On that earlier column, I said that Deles and Confesor were "sacked." I leave it up to our readers to appreciate the distinction involved.

Now comes the case of Undersecretary Puno. Apparently, he was designated by the President as the man to handle the hostage situation. What exactly were his marching orders are not really known. But the public perception is that he, instead of Robredo, was in the in charge.

Undersecretary Puno failed the President. Considering his closeness to her, there are other jobs that may be available for him. But certainly not those of the local government undersecretary for police affairs. If only the President looks beyond his shooting buddies, he will see that there are better qualified individuals—not just for the DILG but also for other positions in government.

Robredo, Puno and Verzosa have to go. If the President lives up to her campaign bailiwick, it will be seen as a step out and his credibility will suffer further damage.

* * *

Tax-saving measures.

Last July, the "Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2010" came into effect. The new law Republic Act 9994 grants additional benefits and privileges to senior citizens. The most important of these is the exemption from the value-added tax (VAT) on the sale of certain goods and services.

In effect, the new law reduces the full 20-percent discount of senior citizens that had been diminished in the past by the imposition of the VAT.

Today there are a number of complaints from senior citizens on the implementation of the new law.

Calling the attention of Mercury Drug outlets.

Ms. Alice Guerrero writes that when she went to purchase vitamins, specifically "Power Sole 500 mg," at the Mercury Drug outlet located at Pak Square in Makati City, she was informed that under a recent discount bracket, as mentioned in the cashier, "their cash register had not been programmed to accept vitamin purchases with the discount."

Guerrero showed a doctor's prescription for her particular vitamin needs but was denied down by the Mercury Drug outlet.

The implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 9994 which were recently promulgated reaffirmation of the new law states:

"Rule 39-Privileges for senior citizens. Section 1. (a) **Medicine and drug purchases**—the twenty percent discount and VAT exemption shall apply to the purchase of generic or brand medicines and drugs for or for senior citizens including the purchase of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. The twenty percent discount and VAT exemption shall also be granted in the purchase of vitamins and mineral supplements which are medically prescribed by an attending physician for prevention and treatment of disease, illness or injury."

Another complaint recently received has to do with the number of senior citizens who are allowed the discount by an establishment.

One group of senior citizens reported that a restaurant limited the number of citizens who would be entitled to the discount to only six persons. The senior party of more than 20 individuals, all of whom were senior citizens, as attested to by their senior citizen identification cards, were told that the restaurant would only grant the discount for a maximum of 10 individuals.

This is quite a rude awakening since never before were there limits imposed on us. Instead of lavishly accepting the situation, the matter should be referred to the Office of Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) of the locality for corrective action.

Pressed freedom

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO
Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

FEDERAL DSWD broadcaster Martine "Ibidog" Ilido was suspended out of the blue, his company, the Radio Mindanao Network, terminated his services of 12 years which, he said, were marked with "utmost dedication and loyalty". Ilido, until last Monday, managed the DMS-owned radio station dxDR, which for years now, under his guidance, is the top-rating "land of the airwaves" in the entire progressive hill region in the north to Davao City and environs.

The official reason given by the bigwigs of RMN, which is owned by the Cojuangco clan, was that he had "lost" the management's "trust and confidence." A claim that, to the mind of Ilido and several of his former colleagues, was "ridiculous" if not total baloney.

Indeed, baffling and shallow, even suspect. Especially, if one is to consider the fact that even as the 40 or so AM and FM stations in the Davao area are fighting to be on top of the ratings games and get the biggest share of the advertising pie, dxDC under Ilido was able to hold on to No. 1, as shown by the latest AC Nielsen survey.

Also, for the past several years, dxDC's news team recorded our targeted sales quotas and revenues ... making our local operations viable and self-sustaining. This is in addition to the station's network and helping in the overall upkeep and financial viability of the company," Ilido says. So why was he kicked out?

The reason for his dismissal is not trust and confidence. Ilido and his colleagues at the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines believe. They say it's the kind of "politics" that Ilido adheres to that did him in. Ilido is regarded by many as one of the "most progressive-oriented" broadcasters in the region.

Under his watch as station manager, dxDC was known for its "progressive" programming and for that "thrust of service to the poor and simple part of the common folk, their plight and their struggles."

And, because of the "use of the law" practices employed by Ilido, his station enjoyed not only the widest audience reach but, more importantly, the highest credibility while keeping "con artists intact." He fought it out with top management that RMN employees be paid salaries above the minimum set by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Ilido and his colleagues at RMN-dxDC Davao also figured prominently in protest actions against the Arroyo administration's attempts to curtail the rights of journalists and broadcast of the press, "such as the most serious bid to defy then Presidential Decree (PD) 1017 which was designed to muzzle the press and control broadcast content, NUJP notes. Reportedly because of their brand of reportage, there were once a few instances that Ilido and some of his dxDC colleagues were hounded by military agents.

On top of his "progressive views," one other thing triggered his dismissal, Ilido says...his refusal to kowtow to the whims of a ranking RMN official who tried to influence the local radio programming in the last elections to favor a presidential candidate with close ties to RMN officials, on account of enormous, had much millions of pesos' worth of advertising deals.

The RMN official—a "spin doctor" for all in terms and purposes...wanted to use the RMN network to spread "black propaganda" against then presidential candidate Manuel Roxas II. But the RMN official, though, Ilido and some of his colleagues refused, for ethical considerations, which the RMN official did not share. Hence, the RMN official's candidate lost badly.

Ilido also thwarted attempts by the same official and some top management people to terminate the services of provincial reporters and to downsize dxDC's provincial operations. His mantra, by not preventing or discouraging the formation of a rank and file union in dxDC "to protect the interest and welfare of my colleagues," apparently, she did not sit well with management.

To these "validated" reasons, Ilido dismissed many, members of the union staged a fighting rally in front of their station last Thursday. "I hope my case and that of my colleagues in dxDC will become an eye-opener to other media workers," says Ilido. "We cannot forever pretend that ... as media workers, we don't see the injustices committed by those who wield the powers ... Just like the public we sound to serve, we, too, have to assert our rights for work security and other economic rights."

Following the Aug. 23 Quirino Grandstand hostage fiasco, the public eye—and criticism—of most again has been cast not only on the incompetence of the police and the crisis management officials, but also on the media outlets' and networks' ways of competing in the ratings game. It is the same ratings game that prized the likes of Ilido and his colleagues against the greed of their bosses.

Ilido's case, in point, is a clear and compelling indictment when it said that most media workers in the country are still being treated by their owners "as nothing but economic-means profits."

* * *

DALUP Lawyers, law students, judges, prosecutors, former alumni of the Student and Graduate parties are invited to participate in the PHILCon Conference of Lawyers in the Asia and Pacific (COLAP 17), organized by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), on Sept. 18-19 at the SMC Convention Center at the Mall of Asia. Delegates and legal experts coming from the United States, Canada, Japan, India, France, South Korea, Belgium and Asian countries will discuss different issues on the theme: "Human Rights and Peace Amidst Global Economic Crisis and Conflict."

Please don't do this, Mr. President

COMMENTARY
Romeo D. Bobis

I'M TOLD here, you said, in...please read on-sir.

One year from now, your administration shall be paying P35 billion to BOSC (Bicol Consolidated Building Corp.) for the P10 billion PRADs (Public Diversity Eradication and Alleviation Certificates) that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued in 2003.

Now you are borrowing P10 billion from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a similar purpose. Or, should I say a similar excuse?

The PRADs' total purpose was to raise cash for the Arroyo administration; their proceeds were to the national government's general fund. The "beneficiaries" of this vicious, poverty-inducing tax (collection and allocation Certificates) then

Developers welcome GA probe

THE ROBINSON and Ayanza Developers Association (DEDA) expressed its grave concern over the reported irregularities in the use of Pag-Ibig loan proceeds by a developer in Pampanga.

The DEDA, which is the leading organization of real estate developers in the country, is issuing this statement in reaction to the reported disastrous loan accounts involving billions of pesos, taken out by Globe Asiatique (GA) from Pag-Ibig Fund, which have been found to be spurious and fictitious. (Sunstar, 8/30, 11/10)

We would like to assure the public that DEDA members and donors are engaged in such practice and we vow to police our ranks so that similar irregular practices will not be committed by our members-developers.

Despite the fact that Globe Asiatique is not a member of DEDA, our members are worried that in case might lead to a slowdown in Pag-Ibig Fund's home lending program.

While expressing confidence in the continued financial stability of Pag-Ibig Fund, we encourage both the ongoing investigation ordered by Vice President Jejomar Binay, executive chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and the public hearing conducted by the Pag-Ibig Fund management will reveal the full extent of the alleged irregularities and identify those responsible for this fiasco.

At the same time, we appeal to Pag-Ibig Fund to declare on-line developers and differentiate them from the majority of legitimate developers who play by the rules. We appeal to the Pag-Ibig Fund management to level the playing field for developers-with-developers to deal, the unique loan arrangements given to Globe Asiatique have rendered in the opposite limit in the processing of loan accounts, which allowed the alleged massive fraudulent transactions.

It should be noted that DEDA has been working closely with Pag-Ibig Fund for the past 18 years in strengthening the Pag-Ibig Housing Loan Program. We will continue to support Pag-Ibig Fund's efforts to re-institute loan processing procedures without sacrificing the integrity of loan accounts. We would like to assure the public that DEDA is prepared to meet with Vice President Binay to discuss policy reforms that will prevent these problems from happening again.

—MANUEL C. CHENGSON,
national president,
Subdivision and Housing
Developers Association,
Inc. and Ayanza Building,
Dela Rosa cor. Salcedo Streets,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Before anything else, people first

LETTERS

DOUBLE WINS round for President Aquino administration with little or no luxury bind he is in. This is the economic issues that challenges. However, if the President will look back on the legacy of his parents, he will easily discern the answer to each legal dilemma.

The patriots of the Presidency defined the supreme sacrifice for our people. They gave their lives for the people. When is an issue here is the resonance of a corny cause more of land and the desire of our people to own a piece of land. The choice then is no easy: as his parents inflicted in the psyche of our people, it should be the interest of the people that is before anything else.

—EDMUNDO C. PEÑAFIEL,
ncrbrew@yahoo.com

One reason Pinoys want to leave RP

THE ARTS, 12 editorial hit the road right on the head. Drug abuse is no joke. It is the source of many problems in the society. We cannot close our eyes to the problem because we could be the victim of it.

I suspect such, for when I heard the news that Rep. Ronald Singson was a hong kong jail because he was caught with 26 grams of cocaine in his possession. We cannot disbelieve lowly-skilled society who would commit a crime or offense but who was afraid to lose his job because his children could go hungry but he stopped the high and mighty action of the self-confessed farting lord from leaving the country. Why should Singson is exclusively was immediately hauled off to jail where he certainly belongs.

This is one of the reasons why good Filipinos choose to go abroad and acquire US or Canadian citizenship. If you are a good Filipino and you love your family and you wish your children to grow up in a safe environment, you definitely dream of migrating to a country where criminals are punished in real sincerity, not to say, the likes of the Singsons, Antipordas, Antonios, Estradas and company.

There is no reason to the parties to augment in this land of bounty. Our country is the richest natural resource in Southeast Asia. There will come a time where all good, hardworking Filipinos will leave this country, and there would be no one to pay taxes but the improvised, unemployed, unskilled, illiterate, bad public servants, malnourished children and the lazy bureaucrats and the cling of society. If this time comes and definitely it will come in the not so distant future, there will be a resurgence of nonexisting those people and the Philippines will be a ghost nation.

—DANILO CASTRO III,
d_jamin@yahoo.com

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Pag-Ibig first to break Globe Asiatique story

THE NEWS that Tomas Gerpan' was just special report on Globe Asiatique (Inquirer, 9/30, 11/10).

If GA's practices, detailed in HDMF Circular No. 258, are uniformly applied to all developers, including Globe Asiatique. A comparison of our housing program to the companies which includes post-takeout inspections of the accounts delivered by the developer. But in part, a developer could be subject to sanctions against ineligible/fraudulent borrowers, non-completion of house construction and lend-to-developers, fraudulent transactions and default-related borrowers. A breach of any of these circumstances would require the developer to buy back the accounts.

A substantial number of our members being in salary working groups—professionals, self-employed individuals and small entrepreneurs, aware that their true salary or work history. Pag-Ibig has opened its housing facilities to them, on a pilot basis, through the fence-housing projects.

Earlier this year, we discovered spurious transactions involving false borrowers in these projects. An investigation showed that certain broker-type personalities were involved. This was made known by HDMF's CEO Jaime A. Salinas in a press conference last July 13. On July 26, we had notices published in newspapers, warning the public about certain fraudulent activities perpetrated by unscrupulous real estate agents/brokers in normal regions. Please note, bogus report came out short days a month later. We are unaware of Gerpas' sources, but her report appears to quote directly from Pag-Ibig documents.

We wish to affirm any statements this institution may have caused Pag-Ibig members. HDMF has sufficient funds, their savings with us are intact, will remain under their control and will be used as claimed until withdrawn for their benefit.

HDMF remains firm in its commitment to protect its members' hard-earned savings. It's housing loan values are solidly secured by a collateral: the house and lot itself. This guarantee necessary for HDMF on its housing investments is our accounts be based on facts, agents. We also assure our accredited developers that we will continue to take our deliberate under the program.

We remain that we will expedite a thorough investigation on the matter to determine the administrative, civil and criminal liabilities, if any, be appropriate, of concerned parties. A review of training guidelines and policies is underway to further strengthen HDMF and prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in the future.

The administration of the Social Security Institution covered with buyback matters as of Aug. 31, 2010 is at P1.1 billion. While this amount is by no means small, this represents half of one percent of HDMF's total assets. The billions of liquid investments and capability to provide the necessary services to its members. The agency's budget for services and lending operations, look for housing and short-term loans, as well as funds allocated for claims, will remain unaffected. HDMF is still on track in earning its income targets for the years 2010.

—EMMA LINDAYA PARA,
officer in charge,
Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF)

Give ROTC second chance

THE MUST-salted-down proposal to revive the ROTC program is drawing both criticism and support. But if we look at it with an open mind, the ROTC program deserves another chance. The blast Chinese incident was an indicator and should not affect the program in its entirety.

There will be new ROTC commandants and officers, good leaders committed to train and develop devoted and patriotic soldiers. Those interested in joining the military can, in the future, use these ROTC training to keep up with the demands of modern warfare.

But ROTC programs can definitely be improved to the level of the mandatory military training for the youth in other countries.

The schism of the past remembered till the present. Only then can the revitalized ROTC promises to bring our wins to positive and beneficial for our youth, the future of our country.

A well-equipped, able and committed citizen army can be developed. Let us give the ROTC program another chance, it has produced in the past great military leaders and soldiers who excelled in the service of our country and people.

—NELSON B. KAHOS,
nelsonbkahos@yahoo.com

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Politics seen in ₱7-M fire in Romblon social hall

LOCAL POLITICS is being tagged as a motive behind the fire that razed the municipal social hall in a Romblon town and left P6.8 million worth of damages, although authorities have yet to conclude their investigation.

On Aug. 22, a fire broke out at around 1 a.m., "burning down to ashes" the social hall building across the municipal hall of Cajidiocan, Romblon, a police report said.

Also razed were a speedboat, a dump truck, a Crosswind vehicle and 300 chairs and other facilities owned by the municipal government that were locked up inside the building.

Investigators said the fire lasted for four hours as the fire truck had to come all the way from another town on the distant island of Sibuyan.

Arson?

Senior Supt. Christopher Tampugao, Romblon police director, said the fire was a case of arson and it was elevated to the regional level of the for forensic investigation.

But Yebit said we have determined a prime hint evidence or found any witness to prove that it was intentional, the case remains accidental in nature," said Sup. Melo Morales of the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) fire bureau, with an office based in Calamba City, Laguna.

Morales, quoting a witness, said the fire was seen to have originated from the speedboat. However, he said they have yet to determine what caused it.

"It was a big fire and there was no news about it," said a town resident, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The source also said they smelled gasoline at the vicinity after the fire.

Protest

The social hall building was built seven years ago during the 23-year term of Cajidiocan mayor Renato Ramos.

In the May elections, Ramos lost to Gene Gadong Jr.

It was learned that Ramos filed an electoral protest at the Commission on Elections to challenge the results of the elections.

"While [the social hall] was on fire, some relatives of the [incumbent] mayor watched and cheered to be laughing for what's happening," the source told the local news.

The source said the social hall, which was big enough to house 1,500 people, was dearly missed and with Ramos and destroying it would eradicate his legacy.

On the other hand, Gadong's supporters claimed the losing mayoral candidate had the motive to burn down the building and the facilities.

"There were news in each, but no used evidences to prove that," said Obviedan.

Both Gadong and Ramos declined to give their statements until the investigation was concluded. Bharlie Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Ex-mayor of Turtle Islands acquitted in graft rap

By Leila B. Salaverria

TURTLE ISLANDS, Tawi-Tawi—A court has acquitted the former mayor of a Tawi-Tawi town of charges that he had misappropriated over half a million pesos in government funds.

The antigraft court's Fifth Division found no evidence to back up the controversies charges against former Turtle Islands Mayor Ismael Jilim for his alleged failure to liquidate cash advances, noting that the complainant against Jilim did not bother to could take the witness stand to back up his sworn statement, and the investigator did not conduct an investigation independent of the complainant's statements.

Thus, the complaint filed by former Turtle Islands treasurer Ismael Mohalidin against Jilim was considered hearsay and inadmissible as evidence, it said.

Mohalidin had accused Jilim of failing to liquidate unreturned advances amounting to over P500,000 that he made in 1994 and 1995 when he was mayor.

But Jilim contended that before his term ended in 1995, he already liquidated his cash advances.

He further said that Mohalidin came to tell him in 2001 that he only filed the criminal complaint against Jilim upon the instigation of some politicians who did not want him to be eligible to run in the 1998 elections. In return, these politicians supposedly promised to support Mohalidin to Turtle Islands' mayoralty bets rumored on still doubts of desistance.

Tawi-Tawi provincial treasurer Penduman Lapa also supported Jilim's statement that he had no undisclosed cash advances.

In its ruling, the Sandiganbayan found reason to clear Jilim because of the weak evidence presented against him.

"It is a settled doctrine that the prosecution must rely on the strength of its evidence and not on the weakness of the evidence for the defense. Since in the case at bar the evidence for the prosecution is weak and because lack of countervailing circumstances, an acquittal is inevitable," it said.

THESE DRIED FISH were among those seized from a group of fishermen using dynamite in the waters off Turtle Islands. The fishermen were released after local authorities received their fees for illegal fishing. (STORY)

Inmate was beaten to death, says family

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The family of an inmate who died inside the Gamos Reformatory Center here had insisted he was battered to death by a jail mate.

Jenina Gonaco, mother of 23-year-old Michael, told reporters here on Thursday that other inmates had told them Senior Jail Officer 1 Bonnie Balaba may have killed her son before he died.

Michael, who was being imprisoned on robbery charges, died on Aug. 31 from what jail officials described as a seizure.

Gonaco said the inmates wrote a letter to her family, claiming that the resistance and injuries on Michael's body were from the beatings he suffered from Balaba.

Because of this, she said they decided to ask the police to open for an autopsy on Michael's cadaver.

Gonaco said they were awaiting the result of the autopsy before filing charges against Balaba.

She said they were also asking the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Commission on Human Rights to look into the incident.

Reporters tried to seek Balaba's comment but his colleagues said he had since been reassigned.

Senior Supt. Romeo Ogoy, jail director for Central Mindanao, said an investigation on the claims of the inmate's family had started.

He said he was sorry for one who advised the Gonaco family to have Michael's cadaver autopsied.

Ogoy said counterselling a prisoner is a no-no and jail officers could lose their job if they have tempered offenders.

He vowed to make the investigation transparent.

Ogoy said reporters were welcome to get updates on the status of the investigation.

As of Friday, reporters could still not go inside the Gamos Reformatory Center to verify reports about the dismal condition of inmates there because jail guards would not let them in. Agnilo D. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

Selective reopening of Sariaya quarry urged

LUCENA CITY—More than half of some 50 rock crushing companies in Sariaya, Quezon, will not be allowed to resume operations until they rehabilitate damaged areas, according to a member of a multi-sectoral monitoring team on quarry.

"We can allow more than 10 quarry operations in Sariaya, only around 20 will be allowed to resume operations. That's the maximum

ROCK CRUSHING PLANTS like this in Sariaya, Quezon, will remain shuttered. They rehabilitate the areas that they have damaged. PHOTO BY ALLAN JAY MACATANGAY, PHILSTAR.COM

Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), said each quarry operator in Sariaya who have rehabilitated their area[illegible] proven the rock extraction process would be allowed to resume operations.

He said the DENR would no longer renew the rock quarrying permits covering private lands, which was allowed during the term of then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor.

In November last year, former Environment Secretary Lito Atienza suspended quarry operations in Sariaya, but the order was lifted four months later.

On July 21, Sariaya ordered some a stop to all mining activities in Quezon, pending a review and evaluation of all permits issued to rock mining companies, particularly in Sariaya.

Pundit lauded quarry operators for using their workers in their campaign for the immediate resumption of mining activities.

He said the workers and families of the lives of innocent villagers and their livelihoods are paramount to the economic interest of rock miners and their workers.

"There were no quarry operations in Sariaya in the past. The residents in all quarry sites all depended on farming for a living. They can all go back to farming even if the mining operations are permanently closed," she said. —Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

DOT backs study on Boracay reclamation plan

By Hector R Barges Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO, AKLAN—The Department of Tourism (DOT) has joined local government units and business groups in Boracay in raising concern over the environmental impact of a reclamation project in Caticlan, jump-off point to the resort island.

Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said he had agreed to the suggestion of business owners in Boracay to commission an oceanographical study to assess the effect of the reclamation project being implemented by the Aklan provincial government.

"The future of Boracay's beaches is at stake. We need a thorough scientific study to determine the long-term effects," Lim told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Sunday.

Lim met separately with members of the Boracay chapter of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI-Boracay) on Friday and the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) on Saturday in Boracay.

He said the DOT through the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) would help finance the study to be undertaken by oceanographers.

The 50-year P1.3-billion project involves the reclamation and development of areas covering 16.82 hectares in Barangay Caticlan in Malay town and 2.39 ha in Boracay. Proponents said this would decongest Boracay and prepare it to handle more tourists.

It includes the improvement of the jetty port and the putting up of adjacent commercial buildings, including wellness centers and other space for resorts, travel agencies, airlines, banks and other companies.

The first and second phases of the project are estimated P880 million and P961 million, respectively.

The PCCI-Boracay, BFI and the municipal government of Malay, where Caticlan and Boracay are located, are opposing the project for lack of consultations with affected stakeholders and environmental concerns.

Aklan Gov. Cedric Marquez had earlier said the provincial government would continue with the project, citing the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Reclamation Authority.

Marquez pointed out the DENR granted an environmental certificate of compliance (ECC) for the project on April 27.

The PCCI-Boracay has called for a moratorium until operations on the project's impact on water current and tidal patterns are addressed comprehensively.

ISLAND-HOPPING is among the favorite activities of tourists in Boracay

No detailed study has been done to assess the impact on the channel between Caticlan and Boracay if it is narrowed by around 12 percent, it said.

"The chamber is not against commercial development as long as there is no threatening environmental impact," the group said in a statement sent to the Inquirer on Saturday.

The BFI is pushing for an independent scientific assessment of the project. It has requested the University of the Philippines-based Marine science institute to conduct a study on the environmental effects of the project.

BFI president Izobelle Cano said her group was not against development projects, especially those that would help the island's P15-billion tourism industry.

But projects should primarily consider the environmental impact on Boracay, which has a fragile ecosystem brought by decades of "unregulated" development, she said.

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Benguet folk quarrel over mining exploration

BAKUN, Benguet—Bakun has erupted among residents of Barangay Gandawa here after the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) issued a mining permit to Benguet Philippines to explore 3,442 hectares in the village.

In a consultation called by local officials on Friday, members of the Gandawa Indigenous Peoples Association and Community Organization (Gipaco) clashed with land owners who invited the exploration.

Gipaco members, most of them farmers, assailed the MGB's decision to issue the permit despite what they said was the community's rejection of the project.

Bonito Molintas, Gipaco president, said the project threatened the town's watershed forest resources.

He said the people were alarmed to learn that Benguet got the permit despite the opposition of elders and members of indigenous communities.

Molintas also questioned why an extensive consultation had been done prior to the issuance of the permit and despite a previous agreement that the decision of the council of elders, composed of 99 members, must be sought first.

The conflict forced Mayor Marcelo Controdo to ask Bakuno to frame all its operations to avoid worsening the conflict. "All issues raised by those opposed and those in favor of the exploration must be resolved first before any mining activity should be started," he said.

Controdo also asked representatives of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to remain in Bakun and conduct another round of consultations.

He urged the NCIP to review the process it used as a basis for issuing a certification that consultations had been held and that the project had gained social acceptability.

MGB officials said the agency found the permit to Benguet following the NCIP's recommendation.

But Alfredo Gumtotlan, acting chief of the MGB's mine management division in the Cordilleras, said the permit issued to Baguio was subject to certain conditions, among them the obligation to respect the rights of land owners who refused to have their properties disturbed.

"The permit could not be used to explore the lands of those who would refuse," he said.

The residents said when the permit elapsed, 1,442 ha. of ancestral lands exploration activities could be reactivated unless all lands covered by the area.

Lawyer Ramon Antonio, Bakuno counsel, said the company was willing to have the permit amended to reflect the exact area of the properties of land owners who entered into an agreement with the firm.

He said while Benguet respected the opposition of community members, the rights of property owners who agreed to the exploration must also be respected.

But Gipaco members said what is at stake is the town's environment and interests of traditional land owners could not prevail.

"The rights of ownership of one land owner could not be collated from the interest of the community. Remember that we do not live in separate islands and what the exploration is done underground," said Lauda Kayang, a Bakun resident. (Edmar Garbin, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

Brownout today in 6 Mindanao provinces

CITIES—Power consumers in south-central Mindanao will experience power interruption today as the Sarangani Coop. of the Philippines (SECP) will fix a main transformer line.

The SECP would implement power outages to electric cooperatives and private power utilities in Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, South Cotabato and parts of Davao del Sur provinces, the SECP said in a statement.

Felly Cagas, speaking for the South Cotabato Electric Cooperative, said October has created a communications from Marion Adving, SECP Mindanao system operations chief, announcing that the scheduled power interruptions was necessary to fix the blowing of Power 138-kilovolt transmission lines and Sharing Banawan 230-kV transmission lines, both in Buluan.

"We were asked to implement voluntary load curtailment," Cagas said.

In Cotabato City, the Alcantara Electric Light and Power Co. will run its diesel-fed engines and will implement power outages in some areas.

Also expected to comply with the SECP request are the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative, South Cotabato Electric Cooperative I and 2, Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative, and Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative.

"We appeal to all our members to cooperate to bear with us," Cagas said in a radio interview.

Cotabato will start implementing power interruptions at 9 a.m. today.

The SECP did not say how long will it take to fix the transmission lines. (Edson Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao)

THE 300-YEAR-OLD image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia enters for the first time the main arch of Porta Marina, a commemorative arch for the quincentenary celebrations.

Bicol marks 300 years of devotion to Peñafrancia

NAGA CITY—About three million devotees, pilgrims and tourists converged on the main streets of this city to celebrate 300 years of devotion to the Our Lady of Peñafrancia, in a procession called "Traslacion" here on Friday.

The procession traditionally marks the start of the Archdiocesan anniversary. From today until Sept. 19, Masses will be held at the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral.

Throngs of people surrounded the image of the Virgin, called the Birhen by Bicolanos, as she journeyed from the Basilica Minore in the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Among the guests were Sen. Fr. Teodoro Cardinal Bondoc, archbishop of Manila, and Bicol-born Sen. Fr. Adolfo Zito Tolentino, Manila ex-Palatinas.

"This year's celebration is grander than the years before," Lucenyan Archbishop Antonio Tobias, a regular attendee of the feast, commented. "But the faith and devotion is the to still the same."

This year's theme, "Bulong na Hinabi Bulang na Ano (Silk Retold, Gift Shared)," centers on the gift of devotion to the Bicol Peñafrancia that dates back 300 years ago that he helped de Cebuanahan of Cladal de Bhaya Cuyono (old name of Baga City).

Colonialism founded the Basilica Minore in commemoration of the Virgin to whom he owed his second life after a miraculous healing when he was a young seminarian.

A group of Polish Theology students based in Albay came to the city to see the much-awaited tercentenary celebrations. Although they refused to divulge their names, the Catholic foreign visitors admitted that they believe in the miraculous patronage.

"We have a lot of petitions ourselves," they said.

Bulletproof vest came to Mass to witness the once-in-a-lifetime anniversary. Peñafrancia celebrations often many years of absence.

"Well, I came home to them in a how much I appreciate the blessings I have received from her through the years," Pilot Bernardo, an overseas worker who has made the rounds of Taiwan, South Korea, and soon Cyprus to shroud 11 years, said. "I can't deny her presence to my life as a Bicolano. I attribute much of what my family and I have now to Her."

The Virgin of Peñafrancia has been named the collective attributed to Her, the latest of which is the reported complaint healing of Caceres Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi from lung cancer.

"I believe that the reality is the one who healed the archbishop," Bontoc said.

During the Homily of the Pontifical Mass held after the Traslacion that year, the newly-healthy Legaspi discussed the bond of his with the Birhenen.

"It is almost impossible to speak of Bicol without referring to her," Legaspi told the devotees gathered in the Metropolitan Cathedral Photo. "To be a Bicolano is to be Her son or daughter." (Mayen M. Bermundo and Neal John E. Burgonio, Inquirer Southern Luzon)

SACOBOR KIDS
THESE children on one mind portray themselves on bamboo poles in the streets of Sacobor, Cavite.

Residents to patrol Marilao river

MARILAO, Bulacan—A 24-hour downpour could compel residents will be tapped by the local government to guard the Marilao river from pollution and revive the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system.

Leonilyn Cruzado, regional director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), said the EMB would rely on these groups to stop people and industries along the river from discharging domestic and industrial wastes into the waterway.

"We are going to train residents on a 24-hour [basis] to monitor illegal pollutants. We are also getting legal support from [local government] officials to help us identify the sources of trash," Cruzado said.

Cruzado said while studies showed that the tannery and jewelry-making businesses in Meycauayan City and industries in nearby Bulacan towns, Valenzuela City and Metro Manila largely contributed to the deterioration of the river's water quality, domestic wastes have also aggravated the problem.

In 2007, Blacksmith Institute, a New York-based environmental group, included the Pila-Bay-Meycauayan river in its "Dirty 30," the world's most polluted places.

Boris Mendoza, former Philippine coordinator of Blacksmith Institute, said the river system suffers from heavy metal pollution brought about by the almost 300 case operations of leather and jewelry shops in Meycauayan and factories in Valenzuela City.

The river has also become the dumping ground of animal wastes from commercial pig farms and domestic sources from densely populated areas in the province and nearby areas, he said.

Mayor Epidemio Endlicuan said the local government had spent close to P30 million in cleaning the river of trash that he believed came from a tributary in nearby Barangay Bagong Silang in Caloocan City.

To complement efforts in monitoring the waterway the Bulacan government, Globe Telecom and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources last week launched a hotline, called the "green line" (0917-811-97522), to encourage people to report pollution through text messages.

Globe said they donated P300,000 to Blacksmith Institute for the purchase of 10,000 tree seedlings that would be planted in various towns as part of the rehabilitation of the river system. (Gerardo Reyes-Estrupo, Inquirer Central Luzon)

NEWSBRIEFS

■ TUGUEGARAO CITY

3 cops relieved for beating boy

THREE policemen were relieved on Tuesday after a 19-year-old robbery suspect accused them of beating him up in Abulug, Cagayan.

Cagayan assistant police director Supt. Feliciano Carreguican said PCOL Jeffrey Salvador, PSI Larry Arce and PO1 Fernando Bontogon were designated as detained station grounds for police custody at Camp Teresa Baker here. Carreguican said the policemen were facing summary dismissal proceedings.

He said the victim, who works in a rice mill, was caught with stolen cell in Allacapan, and two witnesses gave an accusation on their way to the police station where police personnel allegedly started them at past 10 p.m.

Carreguican said policemen suspected that the group would rob a store because their motorcycle had no license plate. The victim was forced into a police vehicle after his supposedly detained guests fighting inside the car, a detention area located in front the boy's desk.

Carreguican said the victim was repeatedly punched and hit with an extension cord on the butt. The boy escaped and sought help from a group of villagers who took him to a hospital. (Ellaine Vicquina, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

3 men held for false gold bars

Police arrested three men who offered fake gold bars to a businessman in Santiago City.

Chief Insp. Leonel Ilos Juan, police chief of Gregorio Cagayan, said Ricardo Jamias, Francis Pacifico and Roger Lehador were arrested in an entrapment operation at the Regency Hotel in Cagayan last week. Juan said the businessmen met up after businessman John Soriano of Santiago City in Isabela reported that the suspects offered to sell him gold bars for P1.6 million.

Soriano said an initial P1,000 to the suspects but became unsure about the deal. Police Senior Insp. Jaime Ilos recovered alibi for arrest and invoice to inspect the gold bars. The suspects were arrested when the Gonzaga police asked Soriano to contact them on the pretext that he would pursue the transaction without P1.6 million for the gold bars. (Vincent Vispo Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon)

■ BALANGA CITY

Falling tree kills boy

A 9-year-old boy died when a dead tree fell on him in Barangay Tenejero in Hermosa City. Chief Insp. Rolando Ilos said the victim, identified only as Jonathan, was riding his bicycle, Manila dela Rosa, 35, was hanging newly washed clothes on a clothesline when the tree fell at about 8:30 a.m.

But the tree failed to carry the wire weight from the coconut clothes, causing it to fall on the boy who was with his mother killed him. (Jong Rebancos, Inquirer Central Luzon)

■ MAGUAYO

4 NPA killed in clash

Army troops killed four suspected New People's Army members and recovered three high-powered firearms in an encounter in Mabini town Tuesday, an Army official said.

Army spokesperson Maj. Harold Cabunoc said the battle between Division based in Pili, Camarines Sur sent the bodies of the four rebels who were brought to the Mabini police station for identification. (Jeannel Lee Ralina, Inquirer Southern Luzon)

For SSS exec, ₱7-M windfall isn't obscene

From page A1

APOSTOL: "I believe we were entitled to it. We worked for it." STORY ON PAGE A1

raised last year when he was a member of the board of Metro Bank.

"But amount is too small for it to be classified as corporate," Apostol, who represented the Social Security System (SSS) on the board of Metro Bank," yesterday said.

"I believe we were entitled but. We worked for it," added the lawmaker, who also served as chief adviser of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The former SSS board director described as "publicity seekers" critics of the hefty compensations that board other Arroyo allies received from the SSS and government firms.

Apostol said the amount was too small for him to be criticized.

The Lanao lawmaker was reacting to recent disclosures by Sen. Franklin Drilon, the head of a Senate committee investigating the hundreds of millions of pesos reportedly doled out by allies in various government firms.

Drilon said Apostol was among SSS officials who were granted a total of P40.3 million in director's fees in 2009 from Metrobank.

The number said the amount was nearly half the P84.8 million in dividends that the SSS received from Metro Bank in 2009.

The other SSS officials who allegedly benefited were Dakila Castaneda and Rolando Ilarde.

Apostol said the amount that he received was also too small compared with the income generated by SSS, the state-run pension fund for workers in the private sector.

"SSS is wanting as it remains to be one of the richest corporations in the country," he said. "Those who are saying that what we received was obscene are publicity seekers."

Profit share, per diem

Besides director's fees, Apostol received ₱15.4 million in profit share from Metro Bank, according to the Senate finance committee.

The committee said Apostol got 15 cent from Metro a total of ₱20.7 million as SSS share and per diem from 2008 to 2010.

Last week, President Aquino issued an order to revoke suspended chairman, commissioners and members of board members of government financial institutions (GFIs) and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Executive Order No. 7 is aimed at limiting perks that will receive the remuneration granted to members of the board, officers and rank-and-file employees of GFIs and GOCCs.

The order came after the probe by Drilon's committee found that the compensation packages of some GOCCs and GFIs far exceeded those of other government officials and staff.

Bond float report cheap propaganda

From page A1

from the shortcomings and his real intentions are not acknowledged or known.

Palatino bemoaned that the bond issue float, in press, was a "resounding success and a breakthrough achievement" of the Aquino administration. He claimed that it was also the first time an Asian country made a float using its own currency, indicating the Philippine peso was now being accepted as an international.

In his most expansive mood, Palatino said: "This is a laudable vote of confidence by the global financial markets in (Mr. Aquino's) leadership...as well as in the macroeconomic fundamentals of the country."

This pitch echoed the Freedom reforms of the avowedly worked administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the height of the strong public criticism of the unfettered alleged corruption scandals of her administration.

While Palatino's report is founded on facts, it's clear he stretched it beyond what he claimed that the results of the float (in which the government floated ₱1 billion worth of bonds in pesos, and the demand was for ₱13.3 billion) represented a "landslide vote of confidence" by the global financial markets in the Aquino presidency.

Thus, Mr. Aquino received a landslide vote from the Filipino people in the May election, and it is equally true that the international community widely applauded the election as free and honest.

Mr. Aquino won a huge mandate from the Filipino voters, and earned the confidence of international investors, mainly because of the promise of political reform in honest governance, with catchy slogans such as "without corruption, there would be no poverty."

High expectations

We are talking here of two kinds of confidence that have manifested confidence in Mr. Aquino as an agent of change—the first, the Filipino voters and the second, the international business community whose investments are needed to enable the President's pro-active economic growth.

Both constituencies have high expectations for him to deliver results, but the problem is the domestic constituency, the political base of the Aquino administration, and the international community including governments and business groups, have different expectations and different criteria in delivery of results.

The timing of the Palatino report on the bond float proves suspicion that it was intended to divert attention from the series of blunders of the Aquino administration, among double-talk in its comprehensive handling the difficult transition from the Arroyo administration.

It was announced in the midst of a storm of criticism swirling from the bungled rescue attempt of the Philippine National Police of 22 Hong Kong tourists held hostage by a dismissed Filipino police officer on Aug. 23.

Erosion of confidence

Palatino admitted that positive developments on the economic front would divert international attention away from the negative publicity stemming from the botched rescue in which eight Hongkongers died.

The blunders in the hostage crisis appeared to have slashed the tension of confidence in the competence of the Aquino administration in responding to emergency situations involving the security and protection of Filipino citizens, as well as foreign visitors, from violence.

This is the confidence whose confidence the administration knows maximum. There is an urgent need to find confidence of the international community in the Aquino administration has started to erode as a result of the blunders.

In highlighting the report on the bond float, Palatino has thrown in the weight of his considerable department behind the propaganda machinations of the government, notably the Cabinet Cluster, whose Cluster secretaries, each holding Cabinet rank, have been issuing contradictory explanations of government response to the hostage crisis.

Cheap propaganda

Palatino has become a cheap propagandist. By painting into the fact, he has sent the message that economic good news is the antidote to bad news emanating from administration blunders.

Let's go deep in making either/quite clause that the bond float issue is a huge economic success that validates the confidence of the international community in the Philippines. But it's not only to say that the bond sale is the ultimate score of a sustainable economic modern economy for Philippine bonds.

The economic managers still have to prove that the Aquino administration can deliver a business-friendly environment, rid of corruption and capable of protecting Filipino citizens and foreigners from violence and human rights abuses by local authorities.

In the investigation over the hostage fiasco, it has come out that Mr. Aquino has known underwater in handling the crisis and has been shown to have lost control of the events. He has to regain public confidence in his ability to provide visible leadership in times of crisis...not by being President in absentia, during emergencies.

While Palatino was defending the President on the economic front, Mr. Aquino became highly visible on the front pages of newspapers, displaying his skills as a mediator in the hostage siege and facility in handling pain in a tedious-ridden country notorious for the passion of its citizens for gun-toting.

A months-image control make up for tedious leadership. It only more than this to keep business confidence in the economic management shown of the Aquino administration.

5 more execs linked to 'jueteng' payoffs

From page A1

illegal numbers racket.

Reacting to Cruz's revelations, Malacañang said it would go after officials found to be on the payroll of jueteng lords.

Communications Secretary Ramon Ciriaco said the President will "no-sacred cows" once Cruz's allegations were proven.

Asked on government radio dzRH if the Palace would wait for Cruz to prove his allegations or take the initiative, Ciriaco expressed the President's text message to the businessmen-soldiers duo.

Mr. Aquino on Saturday said he would encourage Cruz's claims if "he has the evidence, no matter how little."

Validation

Cruz and his group had yet to validate the amounts the officials were pocketing. "As of today, there are five or seven names [on our list] but we still also validate that and how much they are getting," he said, earlier the phone.

It is said the latest information came from feeds from members of the Kuratong Bayan on the ground.

Cabcaben noted that the breakdown also said that those found to be guilty would have to answer for what they did.

Asked whether that meant there would be "no sacred cows," Cabcaben agreed, reminding that Mr. Aquino did say he would go after them, "regardless of who they were."

Cruz could not hide his hesitation over the government's response, particularly that of the executive branch, in his latest disclosures.

Doesn't Palace know?

The retired Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop asked why Malacañang would have to wait for his group to name names and provide documentation before it would investigate the matter.

Cruz wondered why the government, which has millions of pesos in intelligence funds and has the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, seemed clueless "on these shenanigans."

"Even in ongoing dialog with parish priests [on jueteng], they don't have a single answer but why do we know? [The] same.

The 79-year-old prelate said Malacañang seemed to be sharing the attitude of the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose officials also watched how lotteries jueteng.

"They say 'Show it, prove it.' Our intelligence is not jueteng. If you do not control the interior secretary and the PNP don't nothing will change from other administrations," Santiago said.

The senator commended Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo's appointment, saying the President should give him a second chance because somebody was holding him back from doing his full job."

Santiago said the did not agree with the decision of Mr. Aquino to remove control of the police from Robredo because this was against the oft-mentioned tuwid daan.

"But if I were in his (Robredo) place, I would have considered the risk of getting the ire of the President," she said.

Santiago said the commissioners and even the President for signing promise that he would be in control of government operations.

"The presidency is a very lonely job. You do not know who are your allies, enemies, or those who will betray you or just run you. President Aquino is a loneliest. He has no wife and child to share his feelings on," Santiago said.

But she said that if the President needed to appoint somebody he trusted, he should not appoint those in or involved in military and not as an undersecretary like Ernie E. Pineda in the DILG.

"Pity has to appoint those heavily side-years in the PNP and now the PNP is under him. Isn't that conflict of interest?" she said.

At the House of Representatives is a proper venue to reveal the names of the seven government officials supposedly receiving jueteng payoffs.

"I can still thinking it over but I am not close to any institution," he told the Inquirer.

Cruz would be meeting first with the leaders of the Kamanding Bayan tomorrow to discuss the group's next step. "I won't move without collaborating with them because this is not my fight alone," he said.

Cruz said Gruz's allegations were serious enough to merit an investigation by Congress.

In a statement, he said the allegations that one of Mr. Aquino's trusted officials were receiving protection money from jueteng "should not be taken lightly." The senator's premier of a clean and honest government."

Disappointed

A Palace official, who did not want to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said he was "disappointed" to hear allegations against other officials of the Aquino administration.

The official pointed out that the Aquino was for the presidency with the promise to be spared for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said he was "disappointed" to hear allegations against other officials of the Aquino administration.

The official pointed out that the Aquino was for the presidency with the promise to be spared for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said he was "disappointed" to hear allegations against other officials of the Aquino administration.

"This is a criminal government," said the official, who also warned that he would find out regard if the allegations were indeed true.

With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

GMA-7 lists guidelines on hostage coverage

From page A1

crises that stressed the value of human lives.

The network did not say if it would agree to any request by authorities for a news blackout, stop doing live coverage of crisis situations, or delay on its own the airing of footage of such life-threatening events.

The network did say, however, that on-the-spot reporting should "avoid revealing to video and audio the plans, positions, movements, weapons and procedures of law enforcers."

"The safety of personnel, the public, and those directly involved in the incident is paramount," the radio/TV station said in a press statement. "The story is worth something, but not if lives are lost."

GMA-7 said it conducted a thorough review of its reporting immediately after the hostage drama and that the result was "an improved set of ethical and safety guidelines for future on-site coverage."

"The elaborate on existing policies contained in the network's ethics manual," it said.

The network said reporters and anchors should "exercise extra care in using live interviews with or statements by hostage and other situations that involve law enforcement operations that are key to on-air field personnel, those involved in the incident (e.g., hostages and hostage-takers), and the police."

Always be aware that from may be at risk," it said.

Avoid interviews

Staff members are urged to "avoid interviewing an abductor while talking to hostages or potential suicides and other subjects of imminent law enforcement operations."

They are also supposed to "disclose police requests to suspend or withdraw live coverage with the observation for exceptionary reasons and cleared with top management."

"News policy is acceptable the actions of hostage-takers, potential suicides and other subjects of imminent law enforcement. Assume that regardless of demeanor of the hostage-taker or gunman, he is unstable and dangerous, and may have mental health," GMA-7 said.

"Assume that hostage-takers may be monitoring all police and military action and monitoring the coverage through television, radio, computer, or cell phone (via SMS, Web connection, or calls from others who are monitoring the coverage on other media)."

The network also said its staff should assume that police would not be able to contain all media and kibitzers from the scene of the crime and "use maximum care and how to secure their safety."

Because children may be watching coverage, an effort must be made "to avoid graphic speech and video that could be disturbing to the viewing public," GMA-7 directed its staff.

Feedback

"Explain to viewers why certain information is being withheld," the network said, and "avoid airing inaccurate rumors or information verified by authorities on the overall media's mobilization of news offices."

Items covering security operations will be cautioned with "appropriate protective measures...including bullet-proof vests, helmets, gas masks, fire trucks," the network said.

It also said it would "urge professionals in our organization to focus only on the related, safety and nonemotional aspects of our coverage during crisis situations and give immediate feedback to decision-makers when the coverage threatens to violate our standards for safety and conduct."

The network said it was open to dialogue and coordination with authorities during crisis situations.

Media under fire

Philippine broadcast media came under fire on the wake of the hostage-taking, which ended with the death of eight Hong Kong tourists, including Rolando Mendoza, who was gunned down.

During live shots of members of hostages conducted by a presidential hot-holding committee, radio station DZRH were seen conducted interviewing Mendoza's live on the air through his cell phone during critical moments of the crisis.

Critics have said negotiators might have been trying to call Mendoza during this critical time.

GMA-7 reporter Susan Enriquez admitted that she also talked with Mendoza during the early moments of the hostage drama but said that the interview was cut short because Mendoza's cell phone reportedly ran out.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, head of the five-man, hot committee, said on Saturday during a visit to her hometown in Naga City that her department was evaluating the results of the hostage.

De Lima said that President Aquino rejected an "unsolicited" report on the hostage drama on Wednesday. With a report by Jaime Rimandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

9/11 rites in NY: From day of unity to day of discord

From page A1

of mourning tolled at the exact moment—8:46 a.m.—that the first plane struck the north tower of the World Trade Center.

Two bright blue beams of light rose from Lower Manhattan in memory of the fallen towers.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Robert Gates called for tolerance and said, "As Americans we are not—and never will be—at war with Islam."

The families rituals at ground zero—the reciting of names, the moments of silence, the tolling of a bell—underscored the sadness—but a new element.

The posters and photographs that victims' relatives held aloft silently lamented politics into the ceremony, addressing the Islamic center plans to build a Muslim community center and mosque near ground zero, where 2,752 people were killed when two jetliners flew into the trade towers.

Transformation

Around the spot where hundreds of family members paid tribute, ground zero is transforming itself.

Just this week, officials hoisted a 20-metric piece of finale center steel that once soar toward to open the high 11 stories and, with two assembly making where the towers stood, by mid-year.

At the northwest corner of the site, 1 World Trade Center, formerly known as the Freedom Tower, rises above the rubble-strewn ground. It is set to open in 2013 and be 541 meters tall, taller than the eclipsed twin towers.

Family members in observances in New York and Pennsylvania brought flowers, plumes of loved ones and American flags. Some urged a restrained tone.

"Let today mean, even for a national holiday. Let it not be a celebration," said Kevin Cosgrove, who lost his brother, firefighter Thomas Kelvelin. "It's a day to be somber."

Two pastors commissioned the victims' James V. DeBlase and Joon Soo Kang, fine tried, "Lord, we are GLB, together." The other: "We love your" Islam mosque right now to ground zero? [?] We should not do it."

Only about loss

Differences were evident in Washington.

Liberian Alyson Low, 39, held up a photograph of her dead friend Lou. "Today is ONLY about my story and the other innocents killed nine years ago," said the text beside the photograph.

Rob Quackenbush, a fire chief in Bergen, gave her a hug. Low's sister was a flight attendant on the plane that crashed into the north tower, where Quackenbush's son and sister unveiled.

"I'm tired of talking about everything that's been said on the politics," Low said. "Today is only about loss."

But for Chiarchiaro, it was not. "A mosque is built on the site of a crossing birth," he said. "They are symbols of conquest. Islamic we have a symbol of conquest here? I don't think so."

Knots of protesters numbered the area. Police and barricades organized demonstrations, both for and against the Muslim center that took cities about 2,000 people.

'Met Islam but al-Qaida'

Around the country people debated the meaning of 9/11 and the appropriateness of rites.

In Connecticut at the Pentagon honoring the 184 people who died in the attack there, Obama said those responsible had sought to divide the country.

"They may seek to explain our lives dishes. But we will not succumb to the liberties we cherish or weaken down behind walls of suspicion and mistrust. They may seek to drive us apart, but we will not give in to their hatred and prejudice," he said.

"It was not a religion that attacked us that September day—it was al-Qaida, a sawy band of men which perverts religion," he said.

In Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed after passengers revolted, the event remained on the victims, with speeches by the first lady Michelle Obama, and Joe predecessor, Laura Bush.

No burning

Terry Jones, the Florida pastor who had announced plans not to proceed plans to burn copies of the Koran, ushered on Friday, ending a meeting with the imam behind the proposed Muslim center.

Jones could confirm he was meeting with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, who would burn the Koran, whether or not he met with the imam. "We feel that God is telling us to stop," he said.

Jones's planned abrasive opposition across the political spectrum and the world. Obama had appealed to him not to burn the Islamic holy book. Gen. David Petraeus, head of the US mission in Afghanistan, said carrying out the plan would have created dangerous troops.

The plan also encouraged Muslims around the world and triggered outbreaks of violence in Afghanistan in which six protesters was shot dead.

Inspectors talked at Gri Rock Park were divided on the proposed Muslim center.

Stephen Rostkowski, 24, an emergency medical worker, wore an American flag as a cape. Three friends served in Iraq and Afghanistan. he said, the issue is big, something was the wide tolerance shown a Hanover hit a residents board.

Opponents gathered have a few blocks away.

Jon Leghe, 36, pharmacist, said she was "insulted" by the planned center and troubled by

HEADBOWED AT TES (From left) New York Gov. David Paterson, Vice President Joe Biden, his wife Dr. Jill Biden, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and family members of victims at the 9/11 memorial service here Reuters in the reflecting pool before the start of the ceremony at ground zero. REUTERS

A different day

One supporter of the project said Islam should not be demonized.

"I am Catholic churches around here, Protestant churches, a synagogue, but why shouldn't Muslims be allowed to build too? It's crazy," said Marcie Cruz Thorpe.

It was a busy, 11 weekly different in tone and emotion from those years.

For the first time, the anniversary of the worst attack on American soil served almost as a backdrop to politics. The unease of a ground zero rises by climbing views on Islam and the Obama administration's handling of the four threats of the plane.

For many, the intrusion of politics was cause for a new kind of mourning—for the sense, only of differences that many Americans felt on personal and national terms.

"We need to get back to that commonality and spirit that existed after 9/11," said Julie Morris, the chair of the local community board, who supports the Muslim center.

Ground zero mourner, 48, who had worked as a bartender, recently a marriage proposal from Paula Hernandez, 46. They set their wedding date on the spot Sept. 11, 2011. Reports from the New York Times, Associated Press, AP Reuters and AFP

FVR nephew victim of robbers

LAGUNA CITY—A provincial official and nephew of former President Fidel Ramos has cried out valuables on Thursday when a group of men forcibly opened his van.

Board Member Waldi Ramos-Shahani told the police that he lost P25,000, a car stereo and documents, which he left inside his van when he dropped by a restaurant for a cup of coffee.

Shahani's mother, former Sen. Leticia Shahani, is Ramos' younger sister. Shahani said he discovered that the items were lost when he said his driver got out of the restaurant at about 11:30 p.m. Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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CHINK'S Fu Jianbo takes his shot as partner Li Heiwen awaits his turn in last night's semi-climactic finale.

Chinese sew it up over jittery Pinoys

By Mineng B. Castillo

FUZHOU (CHINA) — Chinese duo Fu Jianbo and Li Heiwen settled down when they had to and dealt Ortello and Gomez a humiliating 21-3 beating yesterday to bag their second World Cup of Pool title at the Robinsons Place Mall in Ermita.

With the Filipinos playing like nervous wrecks, the Chinese sewed up each after rush from 1-all to take a 9-1 lead that had the hometown fans dumbfounded and downed.

He won the stabilizing presence for the Chinese as the study veterans made crucial shots time and again, including the final stroke on the 9 with the crowd hollering up here on mute.

Gomez typified the jitters that wrecked the RP campaign in the finals when he muffed what looked like an easy attempt on the 9-ball, which would have given the hosts a 2-1 lead and applied pressure on the Chinese.

The miss recalled a similar shot Gomez blew against eventual runner Daryl Peach of Britain in the 2009 World 9-Ball finals in Manila and

"The Chinese started strong and we weren't able to recover anymore," said Gomez later in Filipino. "That's how it is in billiards. Maybe the stix isn't really meant for us."

It was a bitter pill to swallow for the Philippines after his second team in the tournament had looked so confident of retrieving the title given up by fellow "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the second round with a come-from-behind 9-8 win over Taiwan's Chang Jun-lin and Ko Pin-yi in the semifinals.

The Chinese had reached the finals first with a similar scrambling 9-7 victory over Germany's Ralf Souquet and Oliver Ortmann.

Fu and Li, who first won in 2007 and became just the second team after Reyes and Bustamante to win this event for the second time, split the $60,000 top prize.

Ortello and Gomez settled for the $30,000 runner-up's purse.

With the Chinese heavily-cued, the Filipinos just reaped a solid-only by winning four straight racks to make it 9-3, only for Gomez to make a truly questionable decision in the 13th rack when, after a bad safety play by Li, he elected to play safe instead of sinking the yellow 1.

After an exchange of safeties, the Chinese duo went on to again set Ortello was forced to go for the 1 ball with a Jumpshot over the 9 that left the cable open for the Chinese.

In the ensuing Final Four rather, Ortello-Gomez trailed, 3-5, before staging a comeback to take the lead at 7-6, following consecutive runouts.

It was anybody's game from there until Chang blew a shot on No. 2 in the 17th rack to pave the way for the cleanup by Ortello and Gomez.

"I almost lost my mind there," Ortello told table side reporter John Mc-Donald after the solid, solid semifinal match. "All of my body was shaking and the Lord helped us."

Against the Germans, China won six of the first seven frames before sinking out the seventh to yield a 8-7 lead.

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DID YOU KNOW

THE 13.5-KM Skyway, which stretches from Magallanes to Alabang, was made fully operational in July 1998.

Arhani Bautista, Inquirer Research

2 snatchers get up to 6 years in jail

By DJ Yap

TWO MEN were sentenced by a judge to serve a maximum of six years in prison for robbing a woman on the street last year.

This was after Danilo S. Pertiara and Rodel L. Castil were found guilty of attacking Glen B. Hung and snatching her bag on Aug. 27, 2009.

Judge Reynaldo G. Roa of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53 sentenced both men to each serve between two and six years in jail with a stipulation that their time in detention while undergoing trial would be fully credited to them if they agreed to retire or observe disciplinary rules.

Court records showed that Pertiara and Castil were arrested after they, along with an unidentified companion, attacked the complainant at about 7:30 p.m. on Gil Puyat Avenue at the corner of Malugay Street in Rizonville, Manila.

In her testimony, Hung said she was walking on the street when Castil pushed her to the pavement. He punched her and then tried to choke her before Pertiara and a companion appeared and snatched her cell phone and bag, then rode the scene.

Taken from the victim were her phone worth P4,000, eyeglasses worth P3,000 and a wallet containing about P1,000 in cash. The loot, with the exception of the money, was later recovered from the cars seen by barangay watchmen.

Castil and Pertiara, however, denied knowing Hung and each other, each claiming they were just in the area when the watchmen came to arrest them. Pertiara, however, admitted that he had been previously jailed for theft.

"A careful review of the pieces of evidence presented by the prosecution and the defense still shows that the prosecution proved the elements of robbery against the accused," the judge said in his decision.

NCRPO eyes lower crime rate during 'ber' months

By Mike Navalan

TOP CHIEF of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has sought a meeting with establishment owners and bus drivers and operators to discuss security measures in preparation for the approaching holiday season.

NCRPO spokesperson Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos said Director Leocadio Santiago Jr. was only waiting for a reply from the concerned parties so that a date could be set.

In a phone interview, Carlos said the NCRPO chief particularly wanted to remind traders and bus drivers about the importance of taking security precautions during the "ber" months when the crime rate usually goes up.

"We want to update every one about how robbers conduct their activities in order to prevent these from happening," he said.

Carlos added that among the preventive measures Santiago wanted to suggest to bus operators and drivers was to avoid overloading their vehicles—a situation which could be exploited by thieves.

"We want to advise drivers and conductors where robbers usually position themselves before you pulling off a robbery," he said.

Carlos added that among the preventive measures Santiago wanted to suggest to bus operators and drivers was to avoid overloading their vehicles—a situation which could be exploited by thieves.

"We want to advise drivers and conductors where robbers usually position themselves before you pulling off a robbery," he said.

"One possible solution is that is for operators not to allow passengers in the aisles," Carlos added, explaining that the authorities would want to know if there was a trend in usage bus manibale to public utility vehicles.

On Friday, robbers held up two buses in Mandaluyong and Taguig City, and made off with the buses' earnings and the passengers' belongings.

Carlos also said the NCRPO wanted to know the security measures being implemented by malls and banks so that the police could map out supplementary preventive measures.

For its part, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said that while the majority of buses plying Metro routes are usually half-empty, cases of theft still occur.

ILLEGAL TERMINAL
E. Carlos, 55, of Barangay Manuyong Bulaon in Quezon City notes: "All loading bays on Commonwealth Avenue are useless, especially the one in front of Eton Centris, because these are being used as terminals by passenger jeepneys, causing traffic in the area."

Permanent solution to SLEX flooding urged

Please find a permanent solution to the flooding on SLEX whenever there's a downpour. We pay toll just to get stuck in heavy traffic.

Aris Manila .32, Parañaque City

Problematic traffic corner in Taguig

Mayor Dawson of Taguig, please address the problem on BRT Avenue corner Mt. Dapitan Street in Kapitolyo. The barangay captain of Signal Village and Kapitolyo has neglected this area. It's a total mess. Hundreds of motorists are parked everywhere while illegal vendors occupy the road and sidewalk, leaving only one lane for motorists. Please do something.

E.J....19, Taguig City

Go after 'budigig,' pedicab drivers

Drivers of "budigig" and pedicabs counter the flow of traffic on the stretch of Radio Avenue, Escopa and Aurelio in Manila. Mayor Fred Lim and the Manila traffic bureau should go after these vehicles whose drivers are arrogant.

JR .M., Manila

Busted traffic light in Manila

The traffic light at the corner of P. Campa and Nagtahan in Manila has been busted for weeks.

Mike .45, Quezon City

Store an eyesore in Parañaque City

Now some have a new store near United Parañaque Subdivision 2 that is still allowed to operate? The encroachment of stores that the owner has stocked in the area is such an eyesore. All the other establishments near the area had made their encroachment demolished. I'm wondering why the barangay is still allowing this.

Rojelio .30, Parañaque City

The case of the disappearing sidewalks

Attention, MMDA chair and SC mayors. This is my love to appeal and yet no action has been taken. My children ages 8 and 10 are forced to walk on the street in going to and coming from our school because there is no illegal billboards half...but no shop and eateries have taken over the sidewalks on N. Roxas Street from Roxas to Mayon Streets in Barangay Sta. Teresita, Quezon City.

R. Reyes, 54, Quezon City

Junk shops take over sidewalk

A junk shop has taken over the sidewalk and part of Capsinig Road corner Padial 10 in Tondo, Manila.

Jacob Jimenez, 67, Manila

Ban sought on trailer trucks on East Service Road

I hope Taguig or Parañaque officials check out the Food Terminal Road here in South Superhighway. There are a lot of trailer trucks in the area and their drivers obstruct and cross over/take each other. They should not be allowed in the area since the road is very small and these trucks are a danger to small cars. I think that some drivers use this route because they pocket the money given to them to pay for toll so their operators do not give them toll money.

JRC, 40, Parañaque

Man shoots trader in the head

By Nancy Carvajal

A BUSINESSWOMAN was killed after a still unidentified man shot her in the head as she was walking near her home in Quezon City on Saturday night, a police report said.

Investigators said they had yet to establish the motive for the killing of Regina Murillo, 49, a resident of Barangay Gulod in Novaliches, Quezon City.

PO2 Norlan Margallo of the Quezon City Police District's homicide section said Murillo was shot once in the back of the head with the bullet exiting through the left side of her forehead.

Margallo said the victim died on the spot, just a few steps away from her house. The shooting took place at around 7:30 p.m. at Villareal corner Sonoma Streets in Barangay Gulod.

The investigators said witnesses described the gunman as about 5'9" tall. He wore a white T-shirt, a pair of denim jeans and a ball cap.

Witnesses also told the police that the gunman waited for Murillo to appear, talked her and then shot her.

He then casually walked away although he fired several shots at several bystanders who tried to go after him, the witnesses added.

Insurance official, 2 boarders lose over ₱200,000 to burglars

By Dj Yap

AN EXECUTIVE of the Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co. and two house mates complained to the Manila police about being short more ₱200,000 to cash and valuables in Ermita yesterday morning.

Jose Mario Evangelista, 53, a vice president at Prudential, reported that unidentified thieves broke into his house on Rosario Street, Ermita, sometime between 5:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. yesterday.

He said that the theft was discovered at around 7 a.m.

Evangelista told investigators of the Manila Police District's theft and robbery section that she lost ₱50,000 in cash, a laptop computer, two cell phones, one camera, a backpack and some pieces of jewelry.

On the other hand, her boarders, Honorer Cardenas, 23, a nurse, and Ana Jane Cardenas, 25, real estate agent, duty last nite cell phones and their wristwatches amounting to ₱40,000.

It was not clear if the police report how the robbers entered the house or if there were other casualties. The boarders Evangelista said her two boarders at the time the burglary took place.

Metro Briefs

2 cars burglarized in front of church

THIEVES broke into vehicles owned by a layman and a teacher in front of a church in Mandaluyong City on Saturday night, taking away valuables worth P150,000. Police Master Sergeant Jose Mercado, a deacon at the Cathedral of the King and Joan Bansil, a teacher, said they were attending church services when their vehicles were burglarized between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., police investigator PO2 Anthony Guevarra said. He added that there were no witnesses. The two victims—a Protestant deaconess and a layman—were parked in front of the church on Shaw Blvd. Street. The victims told the police that when they came out of the church, the windows of their vehicles were broken while their belongings, including a portable gaming device, iPod, a passport and other important documents, were gone, Senior Supt. Celerino Sagun, Mandaluyong police chief, said an investigation was ongoing as he warned the public not to leave valuables in their parked cars.

Alpha Calitiz

No more zoning exemptions in QC

THE QUEZON City government is set to revoke all zoning exemptions in the zoning ordinance with its implementation as a physical and landscape development plan, Mayor Herbert Bautista said in a statement that the zoning ordinance would be strictly implemented to curb the rampant practice of turning the city into a haphazard destination. He added that he had ordered City Planning and Development Office head Teresita Cruz to fast-track the draft of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), a long-term guide to the city's physical development. "I want the city's zoning ordinance to be fully activated and institutionalized as part of our administration's efforts to transform Quezon City," Bautista said. He added that Cruz has until the end of the month to finish the draft and submit it to the city council for approval. "I want CLUP to be approved by December this year to finally set the direction of the city in terms of physical development," said Bautista.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Fewer litterbugs in Makati, says official

ABOUT nine out of 10 persons apprehended by the Makati City government for littering were transients, statistics from the city's environment office showed. Meanwhile, the number of litterbugs have decreased to almost 11 percent in the first half of the year compared to the same period in 2008, Ernesto Branca, officer in charge of the Makati Department of Environmental Services (DES), said. Branca, who reported the development to Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr., said that of 5,020 persons cited for littering from January to June, only 260 were residents while the rest came from other parts of Metro Manila. He added that the total number of violators tickets handed out for the first half of the year was still lower than the 2008 level, when the DES recorded 6,568 citations for the same period. He attributed the decrease to the heightened awareness of residents and the public of the city's strict enforcement of its anti-littering laws.

Mike Navalan

P5-P10 reward for captured rats pushed

A DOMESTICOM of Makati rank City has re-filed a proposed ordinance which will reward residents P5 to P10 for every rat they capture, dead or alive. Councilor Melvin Mercado said the proposed was aimed at reducing the number of leptospirosis cases in the city. Under his proposal, the government must pay P5 for every captured rat that weighs less than half a kilo and P10 for rats each weighing half a kilo or more.

Mike Cabigo

Film screening, tertulia on Sept. 14-15

A TERTULIA and screening will be hosted by Virginia R. Moreno, Lucio Magsa Lim Perez and Gaspar Vitel for producer Peter Kelz. Director Brenar Schroeder and executive for roles and casting Christopher Gerrios of the cult film "Laughing Star." The event will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 1 p.m., at the Don Tomas Mapua Residence at 2525, Taft Ave., Pasay City. A screening of "Laughing Star" will be held at the Alliance de Manille the next day. It will be hosted by The Consulate of The Alliance Francaise, Sudtie Institute and cultural officers of the German, Austrian and French Embassies. Alliance Francaise de Manille is at 2020 Roxas Garcia St. in Ermita, Makati City. For more information, call 368-0288 or e-mail, virginiamoreno@yahoo.com.

THUMBS-UP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Officials of Jollibee Foods Corp. present a P1-million check to the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) for the rehabilitation of the Marikina Watershed. At the turnover are PLDT and Smart Communications public affairs head Ramon Isberto, Jollibee Foundation president Grace Tan Cabiling, PDRF chair Manny V. Pangilinan, JFC president and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong and PDRF executive director Butch Meily.

Warnings US economy on brink gain ground

WASHINGTON—Economists peddling dire warnings that the world's No. 1 economy is on the brink of collapse, amid fresh signs of worrying weakness, are fueling public deficit, are frustrating fears.

The gain of the doomsday line of thinking may be economist Nouriel Roubini, threat into the forefront after predicting the chaos wrought by the subprime mortgage crisis and the collapse of the Lehman Brothers.

"The first two signs are of bullets," Roubini told an economic forum in Italy earlier this month. "Stop shock or this point can tip you back into recession."

But other economists, who have so far stayed out of the media limelight, are also genuinely worrying nightmarish visions of the future.

Boston University professor Laurence Kotlikoff, who warned as far back as the 1980s of the dangers of a public deficit, lent credence to such dark predictions in an International Monetary Fund (IMF) publication last week.

He unveiled a doomsday scenario—which many dismiss as pure fantasy—of an economic crash because as purposes the United States and China, which holds more than $65 billion dollars of US Treasury bonds.

"A minor trade dispute between the United States and China could make some people think that other people are going to sell US treasury bonds," he wrote in the IMF's Finance & Development review.

"That belief, coupled with major concerns about inflation, could lead to a sell-off of government bonds that causes the public to withdraw their bank deposits and buy durable goods."

Kotlikoff warned such a move would spark a run on banks and money market funds as well as insurance companies as policy holders cash in their surrender values.

"In a short period of time, the Federal Reserve would have to print trillions of dollars to meet its explicit and implicit guarantees. All that new money could produce strong inflation, perhaps hyperinflation," he said.

"There are other less apocalyptic, perhaps more plausible, but still quite unpleasant, scenarios that could result from multiple equilibria."

Everything is a gold by the Strategy One Institute published Friday, some 65 percent of Americans believe there will be a new recession.

And the view that America is on a decline seems rather well-ingrained in many people's minds: supported by 81 percent of people questioned in a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll published last week.

"It is true: Today's economic problems are structural, not cyclical," argued New York Times editorial writer David Brooks.

He said the United States is losing its world dominance much in the same way the British Empire began to crumble more than a century ago.

"We are in the middle of yet another jobless recovery. Wages have been lagging for decades. Our labor market woes are deep and irreversible," Brooks said.

Nobel Economics Prize winners Paul Krugman also voiced concern about the fate of the fragile economic recovery if voters return the Republicans to political power.

"It's hard to overstate how destructive the economic ideas offered earlier this week by John Boehner, the House minority leader, would be if put into practice," he argued in a recent editorial.

"Fewer jobs and bigger deficits—the perfect combination." The Wall Street Journal, usually more favorable to Boehner's call for tax cuts, cuts a cautionary note: another Naked Price-raising economist—Messrs Smith—that failed to provide much comfort for readers.

"The fact needs to be reinforced: We are almost surely in for a long slog," Smith wrote.

And it seems such pessimism has even filtered into the IMF, which warned on Friday that high levels of national debt could stifle financial sector rhetoric to derail the global economic recovery.

"The functions tackling in US property markets is large and growing, in part due to the recent expiration of the home buyer's tax credit. When realized, this could further depress real estate prices."

The credit lead to "disproportionate losses" for small and medium-sized banks, which could in turn "precipitate a loss of market confidence in the recovery," the IMF warned. AFP

Malaysian cosmetics tycoon murdered, burned

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian police said on Sunday that missing cosmetics millionaire Sothiavali Lourjai and three of her employees were murdered, their bodies burnt and ashes thrown into a river.

Sothiavali, 47, who founded the popular Nouvelle Image line of cosmetics in the country, was reported missing on Aug. 30 along with her driver, lawyer and a bank officer, after going to Lebanon a bank deal in a central Selangor state town.

"I can say that Sothiavali Lourjai and three others are believed to have been murdered and their bodies burnt with ashes thrown in a river near the route of the confiscated car," Criminal Investigations Department head Bakri Zinin told AFP.

"Police have detained eight suspects in the case and they provided information that led us to the location where the remains were found," he added.

"We will have to do a DNA analysis to fully determine the identity of the remains but we are confident these are the remains of the four."

Bakri said one of the detainees was a 36-year-old lawyer who is believed to be the mastermind and who owned the land where the bodies were found.

He said the lawyer, who was handling a land deal for Sothiavali, was also being investigated over the the disappearance of four other people.

Ahead of police confirmation of her death, the influential Malay-language Utusan Malaysia daily carried a banner headline in its Sunday edition saying "Sothiavali was Murdered", quoting police sources.

Sothiavali's mysterious disappearance has been on the front pages local newspapers for the last week as police carried out a nationwide search for the tycoon amid fears that she had been abducted and murdered.

Last Monday, police found her car in front of a hotel in one of the capital's suburbs but were unable to find the businesswoman.

On Saturday, deputy police chief Ismail Omar said state forensic agency Bernama that more than four people involved in the disappearance are detained over their involvement in the case but declined to identify them. AFP

'Shadow Shogun' to challenge Japan premier

TOKYO—A veteran Japanese power broker will challenge Prime Minister Naoto Kan on Tuesday, threatening to oust him after just three months in power and become the nation's third leader in a year.

Although unpopular with the Japanese public, the gruff and scandal-tainted Ichiro Ozawa is seen as having an even chance in the internal party ballot because he commands the loyalty of many lawmakers he helped get elected.

For Japan and its young centre-left government, the power struggle spells more instability at a time when an economic recovery is sputtering and diplomatic ties are lukewarm with Washington and tense with Beijing.

If Ozawa wins it would overcome Japan's "revolving door" leadership.

He would become the sixth prime minister of Asia's long-time economic powerhouse in five years, with regular changes hindering Japan's bid to crawl out of the recession doldrums and reducing its influence on the world stage.

Even if Kan survives the showdown, observers fear the rift it has already created within his Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) will derail the supersized mess it started when it ended a half-century of almost unbroken conservative rule.

"Whatever wins, the election may be seen as another step towards the collapse of the DPJ," said Koji NAKAMA, politics professor at Tokyo's Rikkyo University.

In a turbulent first year in power, Nakaima said, "the party has lost its coalition partners, its first premier, its upper house majority and the trust of the United States. And now it faces the threat of internal breakdown."

Ozawa, 68, a veteran backroom operator, was credited with being the architect of last year's landslide win who handpicked, backed and coached an army of first-time politicians, shepherding them into the halls of power.

The loyalty the old-school heeler has commanded among the rookies dubbed "Ozawa's children" gives him a good chance in the ballot, where the voting powers of 411 DPJ lawmakers outweigh that of 340,000 rank-and-file party members.

Ozawa, sometimes dubbed the "Shadow Shogun", was seen by many as the force behind the first DPJ premier, Yukio Hatoyama, whose scuffling leadership style split his coalition and saw him resign after less than nine months.

When Hatoyama stepped down, he apologized for soldiering on now over a US airbase on Okinawa island and for political funding scandals that have also dogged Ozawa, who resigned task him as party secretary general.

Kan, 63, took into office in June on an initial wave of goodwill, pledging a fresh start for the DPJ and a break with the cronky "old-style politics" that voters associated with Ozawa and the conservative party he once belonged to.

The new "icon of a salaryman" premier, a 1970s social activist, distanced himself from Ozawa, who is still looming an investigation into campaign funding irregularities that has seen three of his former aides indicted.

But Kan's political honeymoon was short, as his talk of the need for higher taxes to fix Japan's tattered public finances was blamed for upper house election losses that now deprive legislators goldlock for his government. AFP

BAM, left, and Ozawa

WORLDBRIEFS

Afghanistan more dangerous now, aid groups say

KABUL, Afghanistan—Even as more American troops flow into the country, Afghanistan is more dangerous than it has ever been during this war, with security deteriorating in recent months, according to international organizations and humanitarian groups. Large parts of the country that were once completely safe, like most of the southern provinces, now have a substantial Taliban presence—more in areas where there are few Pashtuns, who predominate among the Taliban's only supporters. As NATO forces pound insurgent strikes in the south, its battle the Taliban in their strongholds, the Taliban responded with a surge of their own, greatly increasing their activities in the northern parts of the east. The worsening security comes as the Obama administration is under increasing pressure to show steadfast, maintain public support for the war, and raises serious concerns about whether the country can hold legitimate nationwide elections for parliament next Saturday. AFP

Historic Taiwan-China trade pact takes effect

TAIPEI—A historic trade pact between Taiwan and China came into effect Sunday, making the two sides closer together than at any point since their split more than six decades ago. The landmark Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, signed in June, is the most sweeping part ever passed by the two sides, officially still not at peace after the end of a civil war in 1949. "This will not only have a wide-ranging influence on the future development of ties between China and Taiwan," Ju Chih-chiang, spokesman for Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, was quoted as saying by the Central News Agency. "It will also help further consolidate peace and prosperity between the two sides." China's commerce ministry also hailed the major deal. AFP

Trapped Chile miners get cigarets

COPIAPO, Chile—The 33 men trapped deep inside a northern Chilean mine were given permission to smoke Saturday after health scientists were made in the air ventilation, officials said here. The miners will receive two cigarette packs a day, regional Atacama governor Vinonia Matas told reporters. The trapped miners have become national heroes since they were found alive on August 22, 17 days after a mine cave-in in the remote Atacama desert. The miners are trapped some 700 meters below the surface. The miners have been receiving supplies—food, water and now cigarettes—through a metal shaft to the surface. AFP

Buildings set ablaze during Kashmir protests

SRINAGAR—Thousands of demonstrators staged a violent protest in Kashmir on Saturday, setting fire to a police office and other government buildings in the Indian-controlled region after the weekly call by Muslim groups against Hindu rule in the Himalayan region. Security forces reportedly fired into the air to disperse the crowds. There were no deaths, but three civilians and two police officers were injured, according to the authorities. The demonstrations came after Muslims in Kashmir had finished their prayers for Eid 1799, the festival culminating the holy fasting month of Ramadan. AFP

China summons Japanese envoy again over boat

BEIJING—China's top foreign policy official increased pressure on Japan on Sunday by summoning its ambassador to again demand the immediate release of Chinese fishermen and their boat detained near disputed islands. State Councilor Dai Bingguo called in Ambassador Uichiro Niwa early Sunday, Xinhua's foreign Ministry said. It was the fourth time that Niwa has been summoned over the incident, and it was highly unusual for an official of Dai's rank to intervene. AP

Pastor: No Koran burning at any time

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Terry Jones, the controversial pastor, said on Saturday that neither he nor his church would follow through on plans to burn copies of the Koran in an appearance on NBC's "Today" show. Jones said repeatedly and emphatically that the event, originally scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, was canceled and would not take place at any time.

"We feel that God is telling us to stop," he said.

Jones said that he hoped to speak with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, leader of the proposed Islamic center in lower Manhattan, two weeks ago. Ground Zero. But Jones acknowledged that as morning was scheduled.

Without accepting any personal responsibility for the controversial, Jones said that the response to his now-canceled plans to burn copies of the Koran—including visits to Afghanistan—that left at least nine persons dead—helped him achieve his goal of raising awareness about Islam. AFP

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WAGNER

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

Ex-bishop in sex abuse goes hiding

BRUSSELS—The former Belgian bishop who resigned in April after admitting he sexually abused a nephew for years said on Saturday he would go into hiding to avoid his former, despite calls for him to [illegible] the Church immediately.

Roger Vangheluwe said in a statement he would immediately leave an abbey in his birthplace of Berges, where he has been staying since his April 23 resignation. His bishopry has urged him to seek another place to live, and several victims of sexual abuse by clergy as well as a prominent attorney have called on him to leave the Church as an institution.

Vangheluwe gave no response to the calls for him to step out of priesthood, but said that "in all reading, I will contemplate my life and future somewhere hidden, outside the bishopry of Bruges."

His April admission triggered a flood of tears in the Belgian Roman Catholic Church. On Friday, a commission presented a report of hundreds of sex abuse victims over the past half century with harrowing accounts of molestation by Catholic clergy that reportedly led to at least 13 suicides.

Vangheluwe's hard former flat, given's longest serving bishop when he resigned, one year shy of retirement. The scandal overhanded when secret tapes of a discussion between the former head of the Belgian church, Cardinal Godfried Danneels, and the victim showed the cardinal wanted to keep the scandal secret until the bishop retired. Danneels followed and also her and the others. Robinson says he allowed a young girl to flee.

"He just got mad at his wife for not making his breakfast right and he shot her," Robinson said. "She tried in vain to tell my family and he shot them, too because they [illegible] was dead."

The victims were identified as the governor's wife, Sandra Nixon, 34; her daughters Jessica R. Strong, 28; and neighbors Dennis Turner, 31, Teresa Rogers, 30; and Tammy Wilborn, 46.

The names of the victims were provided by Rockingham Sheriff Phil Fox, while Robinson described their relationships. Papers in Robinson's store. Turner is her cousin and Wilborn was a relative who happened to stop into the porch of another trailer when the [illegible] the commission.

Sheriff Fox said Poppin was shot to [illegible] daughter.

Robinson says Nixon had never appeared threatening to her, but that he was known to have a violent history. Bass could not confirm that Nixon had a criminal record.

County prosecutor Brandon Miller said his dealings with Nixon came on misdemeanor issues involving child support. Nixon also was in Miller's office a month ago regarding a traffic ticket. AP

ROGER VANGHELUWE

Gunman's row with wife over eggs started US rampage that killed 6

JACKSON, KENTUCKY—A man facing eviction over his hostile temper became enraged by how his wife cooked his eggs and killed her, his stepdaughter and three neighbors with a shotgun before shooting himself on rampage.

Dwayne Andy Sims of the Kentucky State Police said 47-year-old Stanley Sheet killed the five people in two mobile homes in rural eastern Kentucky around 11:30 a.m. local time, then went to his home and turned the gun on himself.

Neighbors in the mobile home park said Sheet stormed across the street of about seven homes in his pajamas and fired dozens of shots from a 12-gauge pump shotgun.

Sims said that when state police arrived about an hour after the gunfire began, they found a single gunshot-and found Sheet's body on the porch in the entrance-personal community of Mount Carmel in Breathitt County. The county is home to about 16,000 people.

Sheriff Anna Robinson, a widow of two of the victims, said relatives in the shootings told her that Nixon became enraged when his wife did not cook his breakfast to his liking.

Robinson said that when his wife fled to a neighbor's trailer,

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON URBAN PEST CONTROL (NCUPC)
FRANCHISE URBAN PEST CONTROL OPERATORS OF THE PHILIPPINES (FUPCOP)
In Partnership With The
Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education & Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of the Interior & Local Government (DILG), Department of Science & Technology (DOST), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), League of Cambalon Inspectors of the Philippines, Inc. (LCIPI), Philippine Association of Sanitary Engineers, Inc. (PASE), Philippine Association of Food Technologists (PAFT), Hotel & Restaurants Association of the Philippines (HRAP), Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Manila Medical Society (MMS), Filipino Inventors Federation (FILINVENT), Filipino Inventors Society Inc. (Christian Brotherhood) (FIS-CB), Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Phil. Foundation (ZWRMP), Earthkeepers Movement, and RESPECON Philippines, Inc.

11TH NATIONAL URBAN PEST CONTROL WEEK, SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2010
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NOS. 966 & 2065 / HEALTH CIRCULAR 231-A S-2001

6TH FOOD INDUSTRY SANITATION AND URBAN PEST & AGRO-MANAGEMENT

Focusing On Good Manufacturing Practices, Sanitary Waste Handling and Integrated Pest Control & Green Management in Farms & Food Processing Facilities

Theme: "Producing Foods & Clean Energy in Waste And Pest-Free Facilities, Cities & Farms"

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as you spearhead the continuation of the 11th National Urban Pest Control Week.

As urban centers grow, the search for effective, sustainable, and environmentally conscientious ways to undertake urban pest control becomes more apparent. The NCUPC's efforts in creating this need are truly commendable. Together, we can defend our people against the diseases that certain pests bring into our urban areas, and contribute to a healthier, more secure, and consequently more productive population.

We can all always in the promotion services as a nations, and listen to and all, at one point or another, we can learn and discipline. But now, that the people themselves have directed us towards the straight and righteous path, it is incumbent upon each and every one of us - from the public sector to the private, from the most humblest individual to the grandest - unite, fear - to take part in the solution. It is now time to be patriotic in hope. It is now time to rebuild and heal our nation.

Bahagian malaset, the situation has changed. Pasado na malang nangyari. Tapat nang bahagat sa kabuyaran ng ating mga pangarap.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

Venue: CAP DEVT & CONVENTION CENTER
CAP Building, Anda Street, Davao City
Date: Sept. 24, 2010, Friday, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE TOPICS & RESOURCE SPEAKERS:

Good Manufacturing Practices In Food Processing Facilities
DOH Food & Drug Administration

Sanitary Waste Handling Of Recyclable Materials In Food Processing Facilities
Dr. Benito C. Dizon, Jr.
President, Foundation for the Advancement of Food Science & Technology

Proper Treatment Of Wastewater In Food Processing Facilities
Tit Gilpin
Operations Manager, Lakeshore Environmental Systems, Inc.

Common Urban Pests In Food Processing Facilities and Integrated Pest Control, Green Management Program
National Committee on Urban Pest Control

Proper Solid Waste Green Management Program Designed For Food Processing Facilities
Dr. Mahendra A. Rangwala
Commissioner, National Solid Waste Management Commission
DENR Executive Director, NCUPC

Organic Farming
Mrs. Eduardo R. Cojuangco, Jr.
Vice Chairman, Board of Agriculture, Philippine Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority
Commissioner, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

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E-Mail Address: ncupc_manick@yahoo.com
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PHP 2,000.00 PARTICIPANT FEE (inclusive of 2 Snacks, Lunch, Conference Kit, and Certificate). Prospective participants from GOVERNMENT OFFICES can avail of our PRIVILEGE DISCOUNTS. ADVANCED REGISTRANTS shall receive SEN REMINDER NOTICE indicate exact amount if payments is made through Cheque. Remit payment through:

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND: This conference is suitable and useful for:

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- Officials and staff of National Government Agencies, Local Government units, Non-Governmental Organizations, and People Organizations who are concerned on food safety, sanitation, quality control, and urban pest management.
- Private and public institutions/ universities including students taking up Food Science/ Technology/ Housekeeping, HRM (Hotel & Restaurant Management), HRDR, Culinary, etc.
- Owners/ managers/ staff of organic balanse sugar plants/ factories.
- Medical officers, entomologists, medical entomologists, epidemiologists, sanitarians, environmentalists, and private/ public solid waste management workers/ practitioners.

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Queen of Queens

Clijsters rules US Open; Djokovic, Nadal in final

KIM Clijsters cradles daughter Jada as join her after the trophy presentation. Clijsters defeated Vera Zvonareva for her third US Open crown /A30

NEW YORK—Getting to every ball, putting runner shots right where she wanted them, Kim Clijsters was no dominant in the US Open final that it would have taken a perfect performance to top her.

Vera Zvonareva did not produce one. No ironed.

Playing on the blue hard courts she's come to love, Clijsters won a second consecutive US Open championship and third overall by easily breaking a shaky Zvonareva 6-2, 6-1 Saturday in a match that lasted 59 minutes and looked any shorter.

"It's always an honor to go back to a place, especially a Grand Slam, where you've done well and you've won, and you want to bring your best tennis again," Clijsters said at the Flushing Meadows stage in the home of the Queens borough. "I knew if I bring my best, I'm capable of beating the best players."

That she did, including Venus Williams in the semifinals, although Zvonareva—also the runner-up to Wimbledon in July—hardly presented much of a challenge on this night.

Her three 1005 has a US Open women's finals and lasted three sets, and this one wasn't about to end that trend. And not since 1976 was there a women's final where the loser won only three games.

Per simply, the second-seeded Clijsters was too dominant, the seventh-seeded Zvonareva too shaky.

"She didn't really give me chances to get in the match," Zvonareva said.

Meanwhile, a little more than an hour after winning two match points and losing in the US Open semifinals, Roger Federer headed for the exit.

So used to playing in the final at Flushing Meadows, the five-time champion left earlier than usual after Novak Djokovic got in the way of a much-anticipated finals vs. Roger title rematch at the US Open.

Djokovic prevented what would have been the eighth Grand Slam championship match between rivals' top two seeds by ousting both women Federer 5-7, 6-1, 7-7, 6-2, 7-5 in Saturday's semifinals.

"They all pretty much feel the same. They feel somewhat empty in the end, because you have tried everything," said Federer, who had seen 65 of his previous 66 matches at the US Open, reaching the semifinals.

He has earned that the third-seeded Djokovic will be standing between No. 1 Rafael Nadal and a career Grand Slam in the final Sunday, when the forecast calls for a 50 percent chance of rain. Nadal has eight major titles but had never been past the semifinals at the US Open before beating No. 12 Mikhail Youzhny 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, earlier.

Nadal will be bidding to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open in the same season. The 24-year-old Spaniard also can become the seventh man in tennis history to own at least one championship from each Grand Slam tournament.

"I won't watch," Federer said, "but I hope he wins."

AP

Aparri, Petecio score; Albania falls

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT 48kg Gen Aparri and Rosemarie Wendy Petecio continued their respective campaigns with impressive wins Saturday in the 4th Women's World Boxing Championships in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Aparri, who scored an easy 13-1 win over Dreisanne Sporizierie of Gibraltar on opening day, proved too good for Russia's European champ Svetlana Gorovtsova, hammering out an 8-3 win at the Garfield Sobers gymnasium.

Petecio, a 26-1 winner over El Salvador's Hendrika Johnston in her opening bout, also posted an 8-3 win over China's Zhang Qiu, a two-time world championship bronze medalist.

But undefeated flyweight Junior Albania proved a big disappointment as she took a 7-4 decision from the experienced Gamzeye Nazlı of Turkey.

Coach Joe Gaspi said Albania, the acknowledged star of the women's team, was beating in the second round but got overconfident and paid the price.

Aparri will next face on Wednesday "Road to Barbados" training camp mate Anadra Shaikhoudinova of Kyrgyzstan, who also edged Chinese Lan Ancheng 7-5.

Yacht and offshore were earlier cited as gold-medal prospects in a preview of the new Olympic 51 kg division by the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA).

The other gold-medal contenders are two-time world champion Kim Mi-song also of North Korea and Turkish Prime Ministry Tournament winner Nazlıhan Kaya Muratoglu says.

Raul Aldaya, a former Olympic boxing medalist, is the other coach of the RP team. The team manager is AIBC women's commission executive Karina Pineda as team manager.

Bonnie Nathaniels

More PBA road games

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association will return to a three-conference format and will make more provincial games for the 2010-2011 season in an effort to bring the games to the masses.

The 36th PBA season has already scheduled 13 games on the road.

New PBA commissioner Chito Narvasa said going back to the three conference format means more opportunities to stage provincial games.

"We will be able to give our fans outside Metro Manila the chance to see their favorite players in the flesh again," Salud said.

Crowd favorite Barangay Ginebra and Powerade kick off the provincial series in Batangas City on Oct. 8.

The league will also visit Naga on Oct. 16, Digos on Dec. 4, Cebu on Dec. 11, Bacolod on Nov. 6, Lipa/Lipa City and Legazpi.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

SSC-Adamson title clash set

By Cedrill P. Tapia

SAN SEBASTIAN-EXCELSIOR kept its focus despite a controversial call late in the fifth set to pull off a 23-25, 25-22, 25-20, 15-25, 15-13 triumph over Far Eastern U last night and arrange a highly anticipated championship duel with Adamson in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 Spousal Conference.

Guest player Vanessa Flores finished with a flourish, scoring three of San Sebastian's last four points as the Lady Stags, whose lone V-League crown came two seasons ago, also in the second conference, entered their ninth finals appearance.

Adamson coasted into the finals with a twice-to-beat 25-19, 25-17, 25-12 win over Lyceum earlier at the FEGH Flying V Arena in San Juan.

A debatable call that silenced the Soktarian's lead to 11-9 in the fifth set provided the demoralizing to the Adamson Lyceum game.

Roces' hit was initially called in by the linesman, but the call—challenged by FEU coach Ben Tumbas—was overruled by match officials after watching a replay on the television pa-

KATHLENE Hagsombal of FEU challenges the defense of San Sebastian-Excelsior's Bernad Mirasol and Jong Rosales

rel's session.

SSC coach Roger Gorayeb took the official to task for using the monitor as a basis for making the call.

"They cannot just use the replay to overrule the call. That's the first time," Gorayeb said. "How does he setting a precedent."

Tournament commissioner Tonyboy Liwag said "the linesman got it wrong because the ball came really fast but the referee should have controlled the national referee because he was close to the play and not relied on the replay."

But Jano Roces left little doubt of the Lady Stags' dominance with two crowning time-off scoring sets and an off-speed spike that finally silenced the doubters.

The game was already won by the Stags, but Gorayeb was still incensed when opposing coaches express later.

"Are we just going to challenge calls and rely on replays in the next games?" Gorayeb asked.

In sweeping the Lady Bruins, the Lady Stags drew 15 points from Michelle Laborte and 13 from Angela Benting.

Talent alone won't do it anymore

WE ARE NOT in short supply of determined men and women who want to change Philippine sports.

Three people are aware of a time when the Philippines led Asia in many events and it is encouraging for them to go through an era when many countries have left us behind in athletics, swimming, boxing, basketball, volleyball, tennis and even badminton.

We all know that the Filipino is a gifted athlete: nimble, strong, smart, and brave. Somewhere along the way, however, our Asian neighbors realized that they could make up for their disadvantage by training harder, getting support from long and passing beyond their borders, even if it meant being beaten often by taller and stronger Western athletes.

In time, the entire gap narrowed and Filipino athletes, who did not get the extra training and attention that Asian countries focused themselves facing stronger Asian competitors.

It didn't help that the Philippine economy had a roller-coaster ride from the 70s to the 90s, paralyzing the ability of the sports officials to move ahead with today. It is an unarguable fact that a country's performance in sports is connected to the health of its economy.

In a new context for Philippine sports is losing plateau, there are three important areas it must address to create a framework to contemplate athletes and programs.

First, push for a coordinated and modernized sports plan. The newfound closer ties between the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission offer hope for this plan to happen.

In a nine-year to-do list of sports, from the 2011 Sea de Janeiro Olympiad as the end point.

Second, implement the plan without meeting too much about legacy, credit or cut. The plan should be evaluated using measurable criteria. Improvements can be made to programs that fall short without suddenly dismantling by hands overall.

Last (but, certainly, a financial in Philippine sports for the plan's success) it is a different sporting world out there.

Coaching, technology, nutrition and even sports psychology are paths we must go through if we want to catch up with those we may once trounced in the past.

There is also the need to compete overseas beyond the Asian region to really test our athletes. And, by the way, we do need new sports facilities and arenas.

All this costs money.

PSC funds and the ardent support of sports patrons have to dedicate boosted several disciplines. A broader financial plan must be needed though to find solely funding for other sports the Filipinos can win.

We will continue to lag behind the more ambitious countries without these components.

There are, of course, more pressing issues today like confronting corruption's ominous big gun, and unveiling our historical image after the drug, 23 hour-grinding incident.

But if we consider sports indispensable to the moral well-being of our country then we must be better organized and smarter.

Today, talent alone won't get you very far.

Stags, Knights in crucial duel today

FINAL FOUR-BOUND San Sebastian tries to enhance its chances for a semifinal berth when it tackles Letran today in the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the FEGH Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Stags, second to the San Beda Red Lions in the standings, are coming from Tuesday's 13-10 victory in the 4 p.m. duel with the Knights, who are seeking a third straight victory to remain in the Final Four picture.

Despite their lofty positions, San Sebastian struggled mightily before disposing of Perpetual Help, 72-63, last Monday.

The Knights, perched in sixth spot with a 3-7 record, are expected to provide no easy roughers test for the Stags, after downing stellar team in victories over Arellano and Perpetual Help that kept their Semifinal hopes alive.

Letran has Knights with the lady-defeated Perpetual Help in the first game at 2 p.m.

A victory by Mapua and a loss by Letran will assure the Cardinals of at least a playoff for the last Final Four berth.

San Beda, San Sebastian and Jose Rizal U already clinched semifinal berths. The top two squads at the end of the eliminations round will earn twice-to-beat incentives in the semifinals.

The Stags played with little energy in the final half against the Altas and Agustin and San Sebastian coach Ato Agustin, Letran, "We need to be aggressive." Cedrill P. Tapia

Valley, Riviera cruise into Fed golf last 4

VALLEY and Riviera rode the momentum of solid showings at home to earn berths in the Federation golf Northwoods and Orchard, respectively, and advance to the semifinals of the 2010 Federation Golf League.

Valley scored a 4-1 win at home then secured a mighty semifinal by finishing seventh which left just half a point short of matching their win-loss mark.

Valley's 7.5-4.5 victory over the last-time champion saw the complete opposite in the first semifinals opponent in the league against Eastridge.

Riviera, chasing a fourth league title, stayed on track after disposing of Orchard, 7-5, in their semi quarterfinals meeting. Riviera captured a 6-3 win at home which proved too hard for Orchard to match the next day.

Riviera completed the win with a 3-2 decision and forged a grudge match this weekend with Forest Hills rivals in eyeing a third championship. Riviera took revenge to 2000 came at the expense of Forest Hills.

Forest Hills and Eastridge gained outright seats in the semifinals after finishing with the best records in the eliminations. Like Valley, Eastridge has yet to make the finals of the 8nd League which features four former playoff foes and seven golfs.

The headliner of the weekend was really the 4-1 win by Valley setting the first three points in football, gymnasium and high-five and in football just averaging a draw in football, the best that was looking at a possible playoff and were outright win depending on the outcome of the aggregate pairing. The match went to the 20th 18 square but Ariel Arboche knocked it for Northwoods when he three-putted.

Eagles repulse Blazers spikers

ALAT's Christian Pingol (L) goes for a drop shot off Mark Barlos (left) and Mike Mesa (right) in Philippine NCS action on Saturday's game.

ATENEO DE Manila repulsed College of St. Benilde, 25-22, 25-13, 22-25, 25-17 while the junior squads of Ateneo and Letran won in straight sets in the start of the first UBC Men's Volleyball League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym in Quezon City over the weekend.

Brianne Brown and Michael de Jesus contributed five 42 hits of the Eagles held off the Blazers in the tournament sponsored by UBC Hard ng Dulcia and supported by Shakey's, Toby's Sports, Double Dragon, Mikasa and Asics.

Ateneo also stopped International School Manila, 25-8, 25-18, while Xavier downed College de San Agustin, 25-11, 25-15.

UBC championship officers Javier Montecon and Mario Aguas' Freddie Salazar passed the opening days.

Other participating teams are Southern, De La Salle U, UE Diamond U, San Sebastian, Saint Teresa, and Ma. Elena MH.

Pierre Jr. Andrie

M. Lhuillier forges KO duel with MisOr

SILDOM USED Mark Alcabon busted back-to-back clutch baskets in M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala Cebu topped Mindanao Oriental, 73-72, to forge a winner-take-all clash in the Tournament of the Philippines championship tuesday night at the Xavier University gym in Cagayan de Oro City.

The Cebu Bikes sent the first of their teams to a deciding Game 3 after rallying from eight down, 62-70.

"I thought shallow, being a shaker of a player, can provide us some scoring (then they) (Mercon) were tightly guarding our shooters," said Cebu coach Boy Alcorcha.

Alcabon stroke charge after Cebu star Stephen Padilla fouled out with the Bikes still trailing by three, 69-72.

Game Six set today at the Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City. Jonathan B. Joyce

Box
CEBU (73)—Magsumbol 0, Alcabon 3, Padilla 3, Mercado 2, Cruz 0, Bontogon 0, Cortez 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos

Blu Girls eye just a bronze in Asiad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE BLU Girls are going for the bronze and even that seems a tall order.

An acknowledged power in Southeast Asia, the SEA Games, the NP women's softball team faces a formidable field led by two-time champion Japan in the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

Officials said the NP Blu Girls are currently entering against the NP Blu Boys to sharpen their skills and find ways to brush the Japanese Chinese Taipei-China top three finish in the last two Asiads.

The last time the country saw action in the medal race in 2002 Busan where it wound up sixth behind South Korea and North Korea.

Japan is the reigning Olympic champion, while Chinese Taipei is former medalist behind silver-winning Uzbekistan.

But Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines secretary general Danny Ferreira said the Philippines will be out there fighting. The team is composed of eight veterans and newcomers who last came from recent Little League World Series campaigns.

"Basic will be its pitchers in the rotation made up of veterans Sydel Bareng, Jay Langaler, Cess Ibibon and Elmer Manano, and rookies Julie Marie Moyco and Veronica Bellera.

Also in the team are catcher Jocelyn Magsalin, Esmeralda Tayag, Sherylou Valenzuela, Sarah Jane Agacanan and rookies Alexandra Luisa Zuluaga, Elma Sarabiano, Marlyn Francisco, Kristine Nicole Ibrahim, Joan Prospinoso, Francisca Allessandra and Kristi Jugan. Longtime mentor Rea Saenegas is the coach.

PSA Forum tackles chess issues

A TWO-HUR session on chess and two coming events before the month ends will be to moreover's topic of discussions in the PSA Forum at Greenwich Restaurant in Quezon City.

Grandmaster Wesley So and the rest of the 60 team that will compete in the 28th Chess Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, are going to talk about their chances in the Sept. 30 to Oct. 8 event in the women's side since last year didn't Sports Radio 918 announcer by Dottie Ballerey, Pagcor and Shakey's.

Sen. Joey Salceda meanwhile, is also appearing in the 10:30 a.m. forum to discuss his plans for bringing his campaign for the presidency to the Philippines.

Other media guests are integrated Sporting Federation of the Philippines president Philip Ella Juico, United Cycling Association of the Philippines president Nicky Cruz and organizer Pedro Cabrera for the Standard Cycling Festival 2014 and Iloilo Seafood Festival and purchase Five dates Bayou for the 4th Asia Pacific Run for Road Safety & Courtesy.

Emotional US five books finals slot

Battles host Turkey for gold medal

KEVIN Durant (left) puts up a shot against the defense of Lithuania's Marius Kaleinis during their World Championship duel. —AFP

ISTANBUL—Led by Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant and inspired by the emotional ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, the US stormed into the world basketball championships final on Saturday.

The American team, with many of its players having attended "September 11, 2001" into their business, overwhelmed host Lithuania, 80-74.

In Sunday's gold medal match, they will take on host Turkey, which shocked a heart-stopping, last-second 81-80 victory over Serbia.

Durant was allowed to run the over Lithuania, scoring a tournament-high 36 points in the team's victory.

The second semifinal was a much closer affair with the game only decided when Serbian Nenad Krstic's shot was blocked by Emeka Ibeles on the buzzer to see Turkey hold on.

US coach Mike Krzyzewski celebrated victory by dedicating the win to his friends who died in the 9/11 carnage.

"It was a very emotional day for our team," said Krzyzewski. "At times like this, we remember that 3,000 people died. I had friends who were killed in this tragedy. It's a sad day for our country."

Andre Iguodala, one of the players in the US squad, said it had been a unique day.

"We put our hands on our hearts during the national anthem," he said. "It's dedicated to those who suffered in this tragedy."

Lithuania reached the semifinals by beating world number one Argentina on Thursday with their key to success being a strong start and their ability to isolate the opposition's go-to player.

However against the US, Lithuania failed to achieve either of those objectives, not only by falling behind early but also failing to shoo Durant. Durant, whose 17 first quarter points was more than the entire Lithuanian team could manage in the same period.

Already ahead 23-12 at the end of the first quarter, the Americans were not about to run easy, well aware of Lithuania's knack of recording come-from-behind victories.

Thus running to a break 42-point at the end of the game, Durant was subbed off, but his 36 points was still the biggest individual by a player in a single match in the tournament.

Such was his dominance, only two other players on the USA roster scored 10 points or more—Lamar Odom, who was next best with 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Russel Westbrook, who chipped in with 12 points. —AFP

Klitschko retains heavyweight title; Gamboa, Molitor cop world crowns

FRANKFURT, GERMANY—Wladimir Klitschko snapped former Peter in the 10th round in retains his IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight titles on Saturday.

Klitschko unleashed a flurry of blows to send the bloodied Peter to the canvas, landing an uppercut and a left hook that put the Nigerian down for good. Referee Robert Byrd began counting but then waved the fight over. The unbeaten KO came 1:22 minute into the 10th.

The Ukrainian champion controlled the largely ugly fight and was never in real trouble.

Jhon Ronrel Klitschko drew tears in a bout five years ago before losing a unanimous decision but this time Klitschko was finally in control.

Klitschko improved to 55-3 in his sixth defense of the title. Peter dropped to 31-1.

"He took a lot of punishment and fought until the end," Klitschko said. "But from round two, it was clear that his game plan wasn't working."

In Las Vegas, Nevada, unbeaten World Boxing Association featherweight champion Yoshihiro Gamboa scored a unanimous decision victory over Orlando Salido to take the International Boxing Federation belt.

The Cuban-born, Miami-based Gamboa improved to 18-0 and appears point of contention to face with World Boxing Organization champion Juan Manuel Lopez.

The three ringside judges gave the fight to Gamboa by scores of 116-109, 114-109 and 115-109.

Mexico's Salido fell to 34-11-2. Salido would have lost his title no matter the outcome after weighing in on Saturday at 130 pounds after weighing 126 pounds on Friday. Had he won, the title would have become vacant.

In Sunderland, England, Super Middleweight title with a majority decision against England's challenger Jason Booth.

Molitor, who beat Brazil's brother Nicky to a 2002 Commonwealth title fight, was floored by two judges, 116-112 and 116-112, while the third called it even. —AP/AFP

GAMBOA

KLITSCHKO

Greatest Danish chess player, 75

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK—Bent Larsen, nicknamed Den Store Dansk, chess player, has died, he was 75.

The Danish Chess Union says Larsen died Thursday after a short illness. The cause of death was not given.

The union says Larsen took part in World Chess Championship in 1965, 1968, 1977, and 1977. He played against Boris Spassky, of the former Soviet Union, and American Bobby Fischer, among others.

Larsen, a 10-time Danish champion, was known for his fierce and free-flowing playing style.

Larsen passed away in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he was living until his wife. —AP

Belmonte bags 6th Milo 42K finals slot

DIONISIO BELMONTE Jr. booked a sixth straight Milo Marathon national finals trip as he led 12 other qualifiers in the Tagbilaran 21K elimination yesterday.

The 32-year-old Bohanonon, who went all his five previous regional races in Tacloban, clocked one hour, 13 minutes and 25 seconds to earn an all-expense paid trip to the Dec. 12 finals, a 42K race, in Manila.

Runner-up John Phillip Dumaran likewise beat the 1:15:00 standard male qualifying time with his 1:15:35 to also bag free access.

"I was very happy that I won here despite limited practice and a difficult course," said Belmonte to Filipinos.

Cebu's Jomyer Lee, 18, was the lone female qualifier after submitting 1:36:00. She made the 19 to 24 age group cine in her first half marathon try but was one minute slower of the standard 1:35:00 for finals.

Lee, who started running when she was 2 years old, has won several Milo marathon 5K and 10K events.

In Cebu last week, a total of 28 clinched finals status, led by Adonis Bingcang and Kimy Joy Tubal, who were 2009 leg winner Madelyn Caren.

The oldest Cebu qualifier was 70-year-old Asciano Abellana, who topped the 70-99 age group in 1:55:31.

So far, 398 have already booked finals slots.

The next regional elimination races will be in Davaoguero (Sept. 19), Iloilo (Sept. 26), Naga (Oct. 3) and San Pablo City (Oct. 10). —Reviewed C. Asuncion

LEE Age group qualifier

BELMONTE Genius practice

Elite qualifiers: Female: Hut (1:36:00), Ian Bernales (1:36:00), Joseph Penales (1:37:43), Pearl Sara (1:51:18), Mark Adams (1:37:19), Darth Anna (1:38:00), Jessica Zabalza (1:38:08), Jeffrey Jason Tenagera (1:40:02), Barbara Bolano (1:38:18), Pauline Diaz (1:50:26)

PSC boosts RP pool to 524 nat'l athletes

By Jane Nicdao

THE PHILSTEW Sports Commission is reinstating 151 athletes from various national sports associations who were removed from the NP pool by the previous PSC administration.

PSC chairman Richie Garcia said the agency, after reviewing the recommendations submitted by the NSAs, now has 524 athletes in the national pool who will be receiving monthly allowances, 151 more than the 373 athletes already on its payroll.

"We decided to reinstate those athletes who were removed but we later found are qualified to be in the national team," said Garcia.

He added that the PSC is also asking two coordinating agencies by NSA officials to act a specific number of athletes to earn accommodation for each association.

"Supposedly, we can't include everybody," said Garcia. "But I guess we will take the suggestion that the PSC should provide a fixed number of slots per NSA," he added.

The PSC chief said the 524 athletes in the national pool include several new and promising talents. He said the inclusion of more newcomers are coming for review.

"Maybe we have names that we didn't include. We have to go down the list again," said Garcia.

At least 108 athletes were removed from the NP pool during the 16-month tenure of former PSC chief Harry Angping, who preferred to support only the those with potentials to win medals in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games and the Olympics.

Garcia said the PSC will restore the 16 elite athletes ousted by the past administration for the Asian Games in Guangzhou, their categories and provide the allowance rate of the athletes based on performance.

CSA golf-for-a-cause tees off

THE FIRST Agro 72 Inter Golf Classic organized by the CSA '86 Makati Alumni Inc. tees off on Sept. 20 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Shotgun tee-off is at 8 a.m.

The tournament is a fund-raising effort of the alumni group, a non-stock non-profit organization set up by the 200-strong Silver Jubilee High School Class of 1986 at Colegio de San Agustin, and is geared to promote camaraderie and fellowship among its members, families and alumni friends.

It will help fund the group's various projects, including the grand alumni homecoming, and the Cententi Canon Penance Reinvance Community Foundation, which was founded by the late Jaime Fernandez Sunday.

Tournament fee is P5,000 inclusive of green fee, use of golf cart, raffle ticket, lunch and giveaways. Raffle prizes include two round-trip tickets to Beijing via Cebu Pacific, a one Club Car golf cart, and a JVC Full HD Pocket camcorder. The hole-in-one prize is P100,000.

Slots are for a flight in the small members' classic flite, as well as in the figurative team competition, a four-to-play three-to-count event.

For ticket reservations and sponsorship details, log on to csa86golf@gmail.com or text 0923-2382806.

BACK-TO-BACK BEACH VOLLEY CHAMPS The University of Perpetual Help-Las Piñas Lady Altas and junior Altas Beach Volley Team composed of women's MVP Kezhia De Luna, April Ann Sorita, juniors MVP RJ Francisco and Louie Chavez show off their trophies after winning back-to-back championships in the Men NCAA beach volleyball tournament. The Lady Altas defeated the Letran Lady Knights, 21-16, 21-15, while the junior Altas beat the San Sebastian Staglets, 19 21-16, 21-19, during the championship. With them are alternates Sandra Dela Serna and Lourdre Dimangay and head coach Miguel Rabat.

Ex-champ Sosa stops Bito

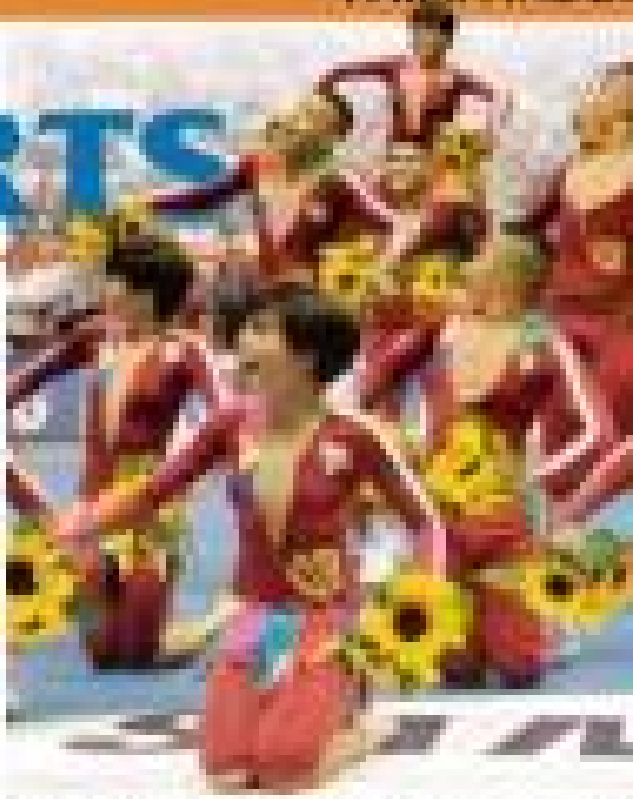
WBC BANTAMWEIGHT Strength champion Oscar Bito lost his title to former WBC world light flyweight champion Edgar Sosa by a 6th round TKO at the Monumental Plaza de Toros Mexico in Mexico City.

The veteran Sosa proved to be skilled and strong for the game Bito. After dominating most of the rounds, Sosa unleashed a barrage of punches and dropped the Filipino in Round 6 (and when Sosa sure Bito to the canvas a second time in the round, referee Jose Guadalupe Garcia called a halt at 2:06 of the round.

With the win, Sosa improved to 45-6 with 34 knockouts while Bito falls to 19-3 with 9 knockouts.

In the main event, IBF "El Terrible" Morales continued his quest to become the first Mexican boxer to hold three four weight division by winning the WBC silver light welterweight title with a sixth round stoppage of Willie Limond.

SPORTS



Davis Cuppers off to S. Korea for crucial tie

Pep Squa

Not a cheerless yea

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines finally found something to cheer about.

g artistic performance, the UP Pep Squad members deserve the congratulations.

d takes sixth title

r for UP after all; FEU 2nd, UST 3rd

Tams guard Garcia is MVP

...ng averaged best 18.8 points, 3.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.3 steals as main cog of demolition cup-warmer Tamaraws.

"I tried not to think about the [award] because what's more important is our goal to win the championship," Garcia said in Filipino.

...honors as guard Terrence Romeo also dominated the Rookie of the Year plum, a year after edging the UAAP juniors scoring crown (19.5 points in just 31 games as a utility boy).

"For a team [to score] as one of the second quarters are the MVP plum since 1994, when FEU's ace Johnny Abarrientos reigned. J.M. Pepito

...ucks from Ateneo Ctr's Meneleo Duterte and the audience's pom-pom inspired by Regalo City's Pinang...

"As a team, we didn't think of winning the crown," ...d UP assistant coach Pia Opinaldo. "We just wanted ...perfect run to the competition."

"The Filipino shower has always been a tradition of ...and coach out there on a flagpole," said UP's Lukban ...rmals. UP's representation to the UAAP board.

...the NU Cheering Squad presented a Japanese ...ommers wrapped numbers while the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe focused on Benavidez's Tiger travelers.

"My cheers is still the champion because we had a flawless routine," said NU coach Jeperito Adonis.

"To be back to the top three, that's already a big achievement for us," said coach Ryan Ildefonso, whose ...rapped across a second eight titles.

...last year's runner-up Ateneo declared its fourth, followed by La Salle, University of the East, National University and Adamson.

EIKI
BRAIN

Editor: Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Marlowe

BUSINESS

TIP MICA BIZ STORAGE

Net inflow of 'hot money' hits $883M

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Sept. 9, 2010
44.120

STOCK MARKET
Sept. 9, 2010
97.78

Profit-taking seen

LOCAL STOCKS are becoming more attractive for profit-taking after an eight-day bull run lifted them to record highs, but some analysts said optimism remained high and the rest he got would be 6,000.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index surged another 1.03 per cent last week to 5,000.35—on the back of strong foreign buying.

"The best is yet to come," said AmaTen Equities strategist Manny Cruz. "Profit-taking is not discounted given the sharp rise in the market last week."

Global investors still see the country as relatively cheap compared to the rest of the region, said Banco de Oro Unibank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Overbuy, Ravelas said last week's close implied that the market still has some gas in its the 4,000 level in the months to come.

He said 5,000 would remain the near-term support for the market.

"Now that we've reached a new point, there are only two ways what we could go. If the rally persists strongly until next week, we can see the index reaching 4,000 within the year or sooner. But if investors realize that there's no other major fundamental news to back up such rally, the index may pull back," said Ravelas.

As of now, Ravelas said there was no significant data or factor which could cause strongly lead the market higher.

FROM B1

BSP chief sees more foreign funds coming in

By Michelle V. Ramos

NET INFLOWS of "hot money" surged nearly five times as of August as the Philippines, like other emerging markets in the region, attracted more foreign portfolio investors who were moving their funds to Asia.

Preliminary documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that foreign portfolio investments into the country amounted to $881.4 million in the first eight months, up from only $182.2 million in the same period last year.

Net inflows in August alone amounted to $102 million, just about the same as the inflows in the first eight months of the previous year and more than double the $83 million recorded in August last year.

BSP officials said the surge in hot money inflows was a phenomenon experienced by developing Asian countries. They said the appetite of portfolio investors shifted away from investments labeled by the United States and other industrialized countries and starting going to emerging Asian economies.

The United States and Europe are seen to be recovering only modestly from last year's global economic recession. On the other hand, the Philippines and its neighbors have to the shown robust expansion in their economies this year.

"The rising inflows are due to the good performance of emerging markets, including the Philippines, and we see more flows coming in," said BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The Philippines registered a new 7.9 percent annual growth rate in its gross domestic product in the first half of the year. This prompted economic managers to raise the country's full-year growth target from the official range of between 5 and 6 percent.

The portfolio inflows into the country are mostly in the form of investments in the stock market, catapulting the Philippine Stock Exchange index to an all-time high last week.

The inflows of hot money likewise boost the peso, which closed at 44.12 against the dollar last week to record its highest level in about two years.

While some sectors benefit from a strong peso, however, others are disadvantaged by the strengthening of the currency. The export sector for instance, has been complaining about the appreciation of the peso, which they said was making Philippine-made goods more expensive in dollar terms and, therefore, less competitive.

Meanwhile, economists said that while the Philippines is experiencing a surge in portfolio inflows, it must do a better job at courting more foreign direct investments (FDIs).

DTI continues push for zero tariff on milling wheat, cement

By Abigail G. Ho

DESPITE OPPOSITION from the cement and industries, the Department of Trade and Industry continues to push for the execution of two executive orders that will keep tariffs on milling wheat and cement at zero.

Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya said the DTI still saw it necessary to maintain the current zero-tariff regime for another six months.

"That was our recommendation, although we know that the Department of Finance doesn't want it. We feel that it is still needed," she said in an interview Thursday.

FULL STORY

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First Gen seeks funds to pay maturing bonds /B9

Global recovery at risk if G20 fails on reforms /B10

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Recall of senior citizens' tax perk pushed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is pushing the recall of the value-added tax exemption for senior citizens and suggesting that this be replaced by an increase in their discount on purchases to 10 percent from 20 percent.

According to a finance official, this was one of the proposals that the DOF was preparing related to the possible amendment of revenue-enabling laws that were bleeding the government by as much as P66 billion in foregone revenues annually.

During recent hearings conducted by the Senate committee on finance, Finance officials reiterated the need to address the effects of at least 10 laws given the government's currently high deficit spending.

The government expects to spend P325 billion over the national budget this year, which it is financing through more borrowings from local and foreign lenders.

Finance Assistant Secretary Lourdes B. Becerra said in an interview that the DOF might submit to the Senate within the month proposals on how to change the laws.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima had told senators that one such law that needed amendment was the Expanded Senior Citizens Act—signed into law last February—that exempted the elderly from paying the value-added tax on certain goods and services.

The DOF had opposed 1997 exemption for the elderly while there were still pending in Congress, preferring instead that the 20-percent discount for senior citizens' purchases be raised to 30 percent.

Finance officials had said that such an exemption would present a logistical nightmare for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which is already short of resources to implement existing tax measures.

DOF documents showed that the Treasury stands to lose P1.60 billion to tax collections yearly due to the new law.

Other laws that the DOF wanted changed are the corporate income tax reduction law (costing the government P15 billion to P20 billion a year); individual income tax relief law (P26 billion), personal equity and retirement account law (P12 billion), the law that imposed a franchise tax on power transmission instead of all other taxes (P9 billion), and the tourism incentives law (P6 billion).

There are also the few that abolished the documentary stamp tax (DST) on secondary trading of assets (P1.4 bil-

FULL STORY

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Ramon the Ilocano

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

WHILE THE nation was on a holiday break last Friday, San Miguel Corp. president Ramon S. Ang was busy visiting a downtown Manila gaming area that spans the idyllic towns of Ilocos and Pasig in Ilocos Norte. After all, RSA is about to take over and transform Ilocos Heavy Mining Co. by buying out the latter's Taiwanese mining principals.

RSA, who was assisted by Rep. Imelda Marcos in resort in the region, overlooked the Tuquoi deal as a potential gold mine in the making in the event that the Ilocos Norte solon's bid to lift the moratorium on mining in the region. To start with, he's keen on using the limestone from Ilocos Mining as input for a new cement plant that he will start building soon.

Ilocos personnel and sale capacity. RSA already owns a new cement plant, Eagle Cement Corp., in Bulacan. But the planned heavy investment cement manufacturing will be done at another privately held SR-50 joint venture with Northern Cement of San Miguel chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

The planned mining/cement venture is just the opening salvo of RSA's huge investment plans for Ilocandia, which has a strong potential to be both a tourist and industrial hotspot and not just the tobacco capital that it's been long known for. RSA may be the earliest that Ilocos Norte, which has lost many of its heirloom to Ilocandian plunderers to other overseas destinations, is waiting for. *Boris C. Jiordan*

Bull-run conspiracy theory

THE LOCAL stock market is on decidedly extra bull runs, no surprise and economic fundamentals justify it being so.

But is it possible that there's a concerted effort behind the dizzying heights climbed by the Philippine Stock Exchange index before the market gained for a long weekend break?

Some veteran dealers scrolling from the trading floor think so, noting the last minute buying frenzy on Thursday that powered the benchmark past 5,000 to a new record high. They say if there was no one to buy the same stocks at the same prices," one trader observed.

If there's such a thing as "banking the close" or building up prices of securities for the purpose of portfolio window-dressing — a practice usually done by regulators — could there be such a thing as banking up the index for a price or profit-taking of large-cap stocks that were only bought to comply?

The most tangible view, of course, is that large institutional investors were simply closing their books ahead of the long weekend break. Phisfair? *Doris C. Jiordan*

Changing strategies

IN 38.67 years, this businessman has shown great skill in endearing himself to whoever occupied Malacañang, regardless of political stripe. According to our source, however, this magnate-person in later abandoned his tried and tested strategy for business prosperity and has, instead, adopted what seems to be clear-line stance against the strong-arm transactions.

In fact, our side of the political grapevine in the House of Representatives is abuzz with reports that this businessman is handing out a **monthly budget to hardcore loyalist** congressmen for them to defend **former President** and now Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The "financial assistance" is supposedly meant to encourage them to speak up on her behalf especially in highlighting the good and downplaying the bad about her nine-year rule.

The budget? Supposedly ₱200,000 a month. Cheap, you say? That's just the baseline amount, we're told. Like to any **entrepreneur, good performance** will earn one a bonus.

Our tipsters say the businessman is a Candidate *Dante L. Lucas*

Open skies. Open season!

IF MIAM the local aviation sector is alarmed by President Aquino's plan to open Philippine skies to foreign carriers in response to a strike notice filed by members of Philippine Airlines' cabin crew union. A source from aboard told *Mind to Mine* surprise too, not PAL) said it appears that the President is—going by recent sentiments for his "open-skies abroad" handling of the botched mutiny of Hong Kong tourists in Luneta—opposite to be proposing a "disproportionate solution" to a temporary labor problem.

The source, who operates an executive passenger and cargo airline, said P-Noy's planned wholesale opening of the country's airspace is not a panacea for the country's aviation and tourism woes. Some of the Department's advisers must have interpreted him that "open skies"—like the words "open season"...would magically bring in tourists notwithstanding limited infrastructure and a dismal peace-and-order situation.

The airline operator pointed out that if P-Noy's strategy is aimed at creating a labor problem in the aviation sector is outlawed operations, he should first in case of history strikes, the solution would be to shut down the plant. August good and simple report! *Ed Lim*

This, he said, is a surefire formula to drive away investors, local or foreign. If at all, he said the State should work hand in hand with the private sector in solving disputes instead of giving lesser-job solutions. *Dante L. Lucas*

Corporate world beckons

AFTER seven raising publicly listed companies for many years, the time has come for multinational equity analyst and investigator Antonio Jose Potiguard to devote more time on the other side of the fence. Potiguard, who recently quit as chair of foreign stock brokerage Deutsche Regis Partners after 11 years, has quickly been embroiled in the board issues of top corporations.

Most recently, the Oakland educated Potiguard joined Ayala Corp. as an independent director, taking over the post vacated by Mercedita Nolledo.

Potiguard, along with Ayala's group head for corporate strategy, Jaime Erik Fresnedi, was also named a member of the conglomerate's Finance committee.

Aside from Ayala, Potiguard has also recently joined the board of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines. He's also sits as an independent director of other listed firms like DMCI Holdings Inc. and Philippine Seven Corp. *Boris C. Jiordan*

In the doghouse

THIS one, we simply couldn't resist. (Also because many many businessmen are interested.) One of the two commemoration heads of President Aquino was not to the Palace dining the entire Saturday (this from another spy).

According to our source, the particular secretary was, in fact, "out the whole day." More identity right he was shooting from the hip when he made a statement to the media that almost caused an international diplomatic incident. (Re replying that someone from abroad was lying).

Because he was one of the officials who the circle was unfolding, he did not know that back-door noise-manning efforts were already ongoing between the offices of the President and the Hong Kong chief executive through an influential Hong Kong media outfit.

So screwing things up, one of the two commemoration heads is now in the doghouse. Guess who. *Dante L. Lucas*

(At humor shift) and a preview of life from the coming before it comes out. Text 09 (96) 0858 AEIO to 6467 (92.50/alert)

Profit-taking ...

From page B1

All Capital Securities analyst Maria Arlyn Bautista said aggressive buying might continue this week, but quickly after that the two-week run-up had led the local market to an overbought position.

"Valuations have also moved higher with this recent rally. The Dow only slightly perceive insights on the local market's fundamentals," Bautista said.

Bautista said the market's next support level is at 4,900 points, while the next resistance is at 5,000 points.

Meanwhile, Philippine Stock Exchange president Hans T. Sy said the bourse is looking at the possibility of extending trading hours to 4:30 p.m. from the current 3:30 p.m. to allow more time for investors to react to developments in the global markets.

Sy said the PSE is also looking at the possibility of allowing trading on Saturdays. *Boris C. Jiordan*

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DTI . . .

From page B1

Separate executive orders keeping tariffs on milling wheat and cement at zero expired last Jan. 1, 2010.

It sounds before the orders' expiration, Rice and cement stakeholders Philippine Association of Flour Millers and the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines had filed separate petitions to bring wheat and cement tariffs back to 3 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Pabasi said the government has not been able to achieve its main objective of lowering retail prices by imposing zero tariff on milling wheat. When the zero-tariff regime yielded instead were bigger revenues for the government of as much as P1 billion.

Group president Ernesto Ordoñez, on the other hand, said reverting to the 3 percent tariff regime on cement imports would protect the industry from dumping.

Taking the same position as the DTI were various bakers' groups, including the Philippine Baking Industry Group, Federation Dimasalang Bakery Association Inc. and the Philippine Confectioners & Bakers Association Inc., which sought zero tariff not only on milling wheat but also on flour.

"The petition to lift the tariff on flour imports will bring down the price of bread and other baked food products for the benefit of the consuming public. At present, the 3- to 7-percent tariff rate on flour adds a burden to bread and other flour-based pastry and defeats the implementation of the country's international trade agreements. The lifting of the tariff on imported flour is necessary as it will directly benefit the consuming public and the baking industry," a joint petition filed with the Tariff Commission stated.

The DTI's recommendation for zero tariff, however, only covered milling wheat and cement products that were currently under zero-tariff regime.

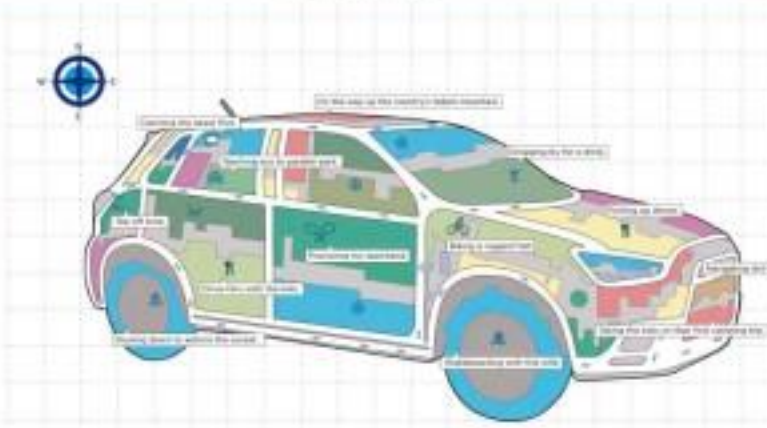
Malacañang had yet to issue any new executive orders on the matter.

Recall . . .

From page B1

lost; law on incentives under the Pag-IBIG Fund charter (P1 billion); law creating the Boat Terrapin's zone (P3 billion); and law on investment trusts (P2.7 billion).

Further, the OGP is also pushing changes in the law that make the legal services rendered by lawyers tax deductible (P200 million); law that reduced the tax on life insurance premiums and instituted the DST on life insurance policies (a total of P2 billion); law that removed the DST on reinsurance from overseas Filipinos (P1 billion), and the law that exempted local water utilities from income tax and condoned their unpaid taxes (P800 million).



The best characteristics of an SUV and a sedan are found to create Mitsubishi's new ASX. The Active Sport Crossover has a 2.0 Litre MIVEC engine that gives you ample power in a compact body. It comes with electronic power steering for better maneuverability and a multi-select 4WD system for controlling difficult conditions on city streets or open highways. For a steady dependable drive that has a fun side too, crossover to the new Mitsubishi ASX.

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BUSINESS

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Protectionism seen hurting RP auto industry

Avid seeks consultation for IRR of new vehicle development program

By Dianne L. Lucas

THE UNIMOTOR corporations of vehicle importers in the Philippines has asked the government to level the playing field vis-a-vis its predominantly Japanese rival auto firms by consulting all stakeholders in the drafting of the implementing rules for a controversial tariff proposal.

Known as the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Development Program—or Executive Order 677-A, signed in the waning days of the Arroyo administration—the policy allegedly discriminates against firms that source their vehicles from outside the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Specifically, the Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors (Avid) believes that the policy favors Japanese auto makers which have assembly facilities in Asean countries like Thailand, versus those made outside Asean which would be subject to higher tariffs under the new rules.

"To preserve its interest and agree to ensure transparency in governmental policy-making, Avid chooses to participate, by way of a meaningful consultation, in the drafting of the (implementing rules and regulations) to implement EO 677-A," the group said in a position paper sent to Board of Investments managing head and Trade Undersecretary Cristino Pedrito.

Avid said it supported initiatives to enhance the development of the local motor vehicle industry, but pointed out that its members were not consulted in the drafting of the new policy.

Avid also pointed to a 2008 study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies—a government-funded think tank—which said that the local automotive industry remained globally uncompetitive despite more than 20 years of government "protection, legislation and promotion through high tariffs, local content schemes and import restrictions."

"This resulted in an industry which has one of the highest protection levels in the manufacturing sector, said the paper authored by Rolando Gill, Alfredo in 2008. "The industry performed poorly and paled in comparison with assemblers in other Southeast Asian countries."

Because of the high cost structure of the local auto industry, the PIDS paper pointed out that vehicles sold in the Philippines tended to be more expensive than comparable models sold in other countries.

"Despite the imposition of high levels of tariff and nontariff barriers for more than two decades, the local automotive industry has failed to develop or an efficient industry capable of competing internationally," another PIDS paper concluded.

"Over the years, the government automotive policies and programs resulted in very limited localization in the automotive assembly as measured differentials in attaining the local content requirements set by the government."

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FEATURES

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Roxas group eyes resort ventures in Bohol, Palawan

Sees tourism as bright spot ahead

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ROXAS group plans to invest in resort development in tourist hotspots like Bohol and Palawan as part of plans to grow its property business.

Roxas Land Corp. (Roxas), the property unit of listed holding firm Roxas and Co. Inc., is now in discussions with landowners in Bohol and Palawan on a potential joint venture in the tourism business, Roxas president Fabio Roxas said in a recent interview with Inquirer.

Roxas said the company recently broke ground on its resort community development in Tagaytay City. The project, Anya Resort and Residences, is a six-hectare upscale development that offers a mountain home in a resort community setting.

"The government has finally come to realize that tourism is an important source for the country to be in. It's something that the government should be pushing more aggressively and I think they are taking steps in the right direction, so obviously the country has a lot of the main ingredients to be an attractive tourist spot, so this is an area we want to be in," Roxas said.

Asked about any backlash from the bloody hostage-taking incident that embittered Hong Kong tourists last month, he said it was a "very unfortunate" event from which the nation would hopefully learn from. He said the country could move on from the incident.

Roxas said the group was still developing its business model for other potential tourism ventures but was leaning toward more of a resort development in areas like Bohol and Palawan instead of a similar residential resort community like Anya.

"But again we'll have to see because there might be opportunity for people who want to invest and use those properties for rental," he said.

Aside from building its tourism property portfolio, Roxas is working on retooling residential projects in Metro Manila to cater to the middle-end housing segment, including those targeting the overseas Filipino market.

"Those are going on quite well," he said.

As the Roxas group's property business was still small compared to the flagship sugar business, it is now building up scale and beefing up its team and organization.

"In terms of the [property] cycle, I still feel that the property business has entered good [consolidation]," Roxas said. "The macroeconomic outlook looks positive and so our low unit duration is to encourage developers to fund their projects and for clients in Roxas to purchase of properties," he said.

EastWest Bank plans stock listing in 2011

GOTHAMIN-LED EASTWEST Bank may debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange next year to strategically widen the organization's opportunities to improve its operations to answer retail banking need or take advantage of the bullish stock market.

Based on the commercial bank's preliminary planning, it may offer as much as 20 percent of its outstanding shares through an initial public offering (IPO). EastWest Bank president Antonio Moncupa Jr. said in a recent interview.

Moncupa said a listing by way of introduction—which will allow the bank to debut on the PSE while taking time to launch the actual IPO...would also be an option.

EastWest Bank, which last year acquired the Philippine consumer finance business of the holdings group ABC group Interbank into Philtrust Savings, can use the additional equity for organic expansion as well as to fund other acquisitions in the future, Moncupa said.

Asked whether an IPO would be possible next year, Moncupa said, "We haven't planned for that but with the way the market is behaving, it's something to consider."

The original plan was for the IPO to be conducted at least two years down the road, but with the bank's rapid growth and the favorable economic environment, Moncupa said the plan could be accelerated.

At the same time, the bank has a pending application with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to upgrade its banking license to universal banking from that of a regular commercial bank. In addition to the functions of an ordinary commercial bank, universal banks are also authorized to engage in underwriting and other functions of investment houses as well as to invest in equities of non-affiliated undertakings.

Under the universal banking regulations, part of the requirements for a bank to become a universal bank is to have at least 15 percent of its shares held by the public.

"We're waiting for the [BSP] approval," Moncupa said, noting that he was expecting any approval to be "operational" pending the bank's shares were not publicly held.

The 99-branch commercial bank expects to end this year with 111 branches. By next year, it plans to open 25 branches, Doris C. Dumlao

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Dreams for My Son
"You have to know what is important to you, and starting early is the way to go. Now that my son's future is secure, I'm so happy to know that whatever happens to me, he could do anything he wants. So it really pays to start securing yourself and your loved ones early."

Dreams for My Future
"Even before I entered the entertainment industry, I saw myself retiring at a young age. It may be a change of career, or doing other things that I have always wanted to pursue. For instance, I want to have my own business someday. It is so exciting to think about the future if you know you're prepared and secured."

Dreams of My Own Family
"In a few years, I see myself being married. I want to see my kids grow up, and I want to be beside my wife through thick and thin. We are not going to be young forever, so I am now saving and investing for that chapter in my life. I want to protect their dreams, so I have to be ready for anything."

Dream of Financial Freedom
"Can I say that I am financially free? YES, yes I am. But I still invest in things that will matter in the future. I keep on saving up, so I can continue to be confident about my and my family's future. It's time to create the life we've always wanted to live. No time like today, no place like the present to start. Again, it's time!"

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BUSINESS

IBM urges Aquino to continue development of BPO sector

By Paolo D. Montecillo

THE LOCAL unit of New York-based multinational computer giant IBM has urged President Benigno Aquino III to continue the work of his predecessor in supporting the growth of the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, one of the few bright spots in the country's economy.

As a more country self, in Mandaluyong, local IBM officials pledged their support for the new chief executive's initiatives to fight corruption and improve business confidence in the country.

"The President could expect the company's commitment on four of the 22nd Executive's advocacies on good governance, growing the BPO sector, leadership, talent development and innovation," IBM Philippines president and general manager James Valdespin said in a statement.

The meeting with the president took place last Thursday.

IBM Philippines' BPO business operates under the brand, IBM Daksh.

The company has global delivery centers located in Makati City, Muntinlupa City, Quezon City and the University of the Philippines-Ayala Technohub in Diliman, Quezon City, from where it supports more than 20 global clients.

IBM today has over 7,000 employees in various Metro Manila sites.

The Philippines is the computer giant's second largest BPO location, next to industry leader, India.

SMC bags Gold Medal deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN FOOD giant General Mills Inc. has tapped San Miguel Mills Inc. to produce its Gold Medal flour brand in a bid to strengthen its leadership in the flour business.

Until January this year, Gold Medal flour had been produced by Liberty Flour Mills as part of its licensing agreement with General Mills.

"We have terminated the licensing agreement so we can build the Gold Medal brand, which already is well-recognized with our consumers," Ivan Panganiban, managing director of General Mills Philippines, said in a press statement.

A unit of San Miguel Purefoods Co. Inc., San Miguel Mills produces and markets flour, with its mill in Bataan, Batangas as its main flour production facility. This is the first flour mill in the country to receive an ISO 9002 certification.

In acquisition of the assets of Pacific Flour Mills, Inc., a pioneer in the flour industry, boosted San Miguel's position in the flour business.

"What makes Gold Medal stand out is the market is the consumer, product research and technological know-how that support the product," Panganiban said.

He added that only the Gold Medal brand continued to benefit from product improvements and innovations from General Mills' research and development headquarters in the United States.

"There is only one Gold Medal flour and it is the one produced by General Mills. Comparative studies have shown that other brands are not of the same quality since they do not have the same research and product innovation capability," Panganiban said.

Gold Medal flour was General Mills' first branded product. It was introduced more than 140 years ago in the United States, where generations of consumers have since grown up with the iconic brand.

Panganiban said it also remains the top selling flour in the Philippines.

General Mills ends union with Liberty

Ericsson bets big on mobile broadband

PRESIDENT Aquino exchanges pleasantries with Ericsson Telecoms officials led by president and CEO Hans Vestberg (2nd from right) during a courtesy call at the Yellow Room of the Premier Guest House, Malacañang Palace.

By Carvin Sabanta-Mainista

SWEDEN-BASED Ericsson, the world's leading infrastructure and service provider to telecommunications, sees dramatic growth in mobile broadband take-up in the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia in a few years.

Ericsson president and chief executive officer Hans Vestberg, who was in Manila last Wednesday as part of a weeklong visit to Asia, said that while broadband penetration in the Philippines and other Asian countries was still very low, the scene for growth was huge.

More people will connect to the Internet, for in some Asian markets, including the Philippines, there are brighter prospects in the mobile broadband sector as against fixed broadband, Vestberg said.

He said other countries, like Sweden, started with fixed phones, moved to fixed broadband and later migrated to mobile broadband.

In the Philippines, he said, while everybody owning fixed phones and other devices, the material was for many was to go directly to mobile broadband without passing through the fixed broadband phase.

Mobile broadband, according to Vestberg, makes more sense as it is quicker to adopt and it requires less investments in infrastructure.

The Ericsson CEO expects Asia to contribute significantly to the growth in the information and telecommunication sector that the company is projecting for the next five to 10 years.

The company expects that in 10 years, there would be 50 billion connected devices globally and in five years, there would be three billion new broadband subscriptions.

In May this year, mobile subscriptions already hit 5 billion and the company expects this to reach eight billion in 2015.

"Today, 600 million people have broadband, both fixed and mobile. In 2015, we see this increasing to 1.5 billion people," Vestberg said.

He said the world was now in the ICT stage of the industrial revolution. "We are almost done with the first phase of this stage which is installation (of devices) and we are now going into the second stage, which is the deployment, putting into use these devices, other than their intended use."

"It is like electricity. When it was first introduced, it was only for lamps and it was shortly up in being used for things that we didn't have before," he added.

With the devices and the infrastructure already in place, Ericsson's focus is to develop more applications of the technology for better efficiency.

"This is the phase we are now working into," Vestberg said.

He said Ericsson was ready for this growth. Having transformed itself from being just an infrastructure and services provider for telcos into a business enabler and driver, it is now developing new technology applications that will ensure better efficiency in various fields.

Ericsson Philippines and South Pacific president and country manager Rajendra Pandjabi said that in the Philippines and other Asian markets, Ericsson's application development is focused on security, surveillance, e-health, smart metering, energy management and mobile education.

Vestberg said Ericsson was the world leader in mobile networks and it was determined to remain so by staying a step ahead of competitors.

"In wireless capability, we are barely on with our 3G technology at 42 megabytes and early next year, we will have 84 megabytes. Our commitment to mobile broadband is clear and we have all the targets to remain the leader in this," he added.

He said 3G will lead a lot to offer and more advances would be done in this area before an actual migration to the 4G or LTE, the next generation of mobile communication technology would be seen.

"But 3G and 4G technologies will coexist," he said.

Ericsson is also unfazed by competition coming from some countries in Asia, China in particular.

"We have the best assets in the world and it is those assets against theirs (competitors')," Vestberg added.

With regards to his visit to the Philippines and other Asian countries, he said the company was present in 175 countries and that his job was to get out and meet to customers in these countries in Real size and understand what's happening in those markets.

"That's how we intend to continue to lead in Asia and the rest of the world," Vestberg said.

PRESIDENT Aquino welcomes Ericsson Telecoms president & CEO Hans Vestberg to Malacañang.

BUSINESS

First Gen seeks funds to pay maturing bonds

$300M in convertible bonds falling due in Feb. if put option is exercised

By Amy R. Nuevo

LOPEZ-LED First Gen Corp. is raising funds to pay some P300 million worth of convertible bonds which will fall due in February 2019.

First Gen president and COO Francis Giles Puno said the bonds were initially due in 2015. However, he said that with the so-called "put option" due by February 2019, First Gen needed to prepare the amount that might be needed to pay investors in case they exercise the put option.

As part of its fund-raising activities, First Gen signed a $125-million loan, which bears a six- and seven-year floating rate committed term and features a grace period of 24 and 36 months from disbursement. Funds will be made available until Feb. 28, 2019.

Should some investors decide not to exercise the option, Puno said a portion of the remaining funds to be raised might be used to partly finance the company's bid for the British Ten Group's stake in First Gen Hydro.

First Gen Hydro is the parent firm of First Gen Power Corp., which owns and operates the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita natural-gas-fired power plant, and of PGP Corp., which owns and operates the 500-MW San Lorenzo power facility.

First Gen has a 60 percent stake in First Gen Holdings while the British Gas Group holds the remaining 40 percent interest.

However, the British Gas Group is in talks with potential buyers—including competitor Korea Electric Power Corp.—for the sale of the 40-percent stake. It expects to complete the sale before the year ends.

Puno said it might not be feasible to form a partnership with Kepco for future natural gas power projects, as legal issues will only hamper Kepco's bid.

Puno said Kepco could be considered a direct competitor in the natural gas industry since the Korean firm operates the other gas-fired power facility in the country, the 1,200-MW Ilijan power plant in Batangas.

Both the Lopezes' facilities used Kepco's Ilijan plant rate the natural gas from the Malampaya gas field in offshore Northwest Palawan.

Puno further disclosed that both First Gen and Kepco were interested in the 200 MW excess natural gas supply from Malampaya and "If we do up with them (Kepco), they would know what our plans are going to be."

The long danger

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

THIS IS a wonky issue, even disturbing, at least according to real estate people who have been doing some land banking in the past several years.

They refer to the Supreme Court ruling that, in effect, scrapped the land title covering some 36 hectares of prime property in Quezon City.

It is the so-called Manotok compound, near the high-end Ayala Heights subdivision in Diliman, the home of many stars for more than 10 years now, straddling from the demarcation of property shown on record drawn up by the Quezon City Hall Institute of a then very small city.

(We talked about this same issue on editorial on Sept. 3, 2018.)

Anyway, it seems as clear that the Supreme Court decided to scrap the title of the Manotok family, saying that the property should revert to the government.

Our concern is the real estate sector look at the ruling with foreboding. For one, the decision will definitely have an impact on over 100,000 hectares of land all over the country, including some 10,000 hectares in Metro Manila.

They were once part of the "friar land," controlled by Spanish entities during the Spanish colonial period. When the US government colonized this country, the government bought the land, under some sort of land reform program. The government then resold the land to the public.

The Manotok compound was part of the "friar land" bought by the Manotok family from the government more than 90 years ago. Some 10 years after the city had the then-disputed property documented, some groups challenged the family's ownership in court cases.

There are huge parcels of the "friar land" in other parts of the country, such as those in Bulacan, Batangas, Cebu, Cavite, Subic, Laguna, Mindoro and Rizal. They cover entire towns in those provinces. Moreover, they include large parts of Metro Manila like those in Mandaluyong and Quezon City.

The real estate sector is abuzz with a lot of dreadful speculation. Most of them, as I said, spent fortunes on land banking. Will all those pieces of property now be the target of decades-old cases as that involving the Manotok compound? What danger may now befall upon the land sitting eyesores (ghost fits for the hungry ones)?

Associate Justice Marvic Villanueva wrote the majority decision of the Supreme Court that in effect scrapped the land title presented by the Manotok family.

Nine justices voted for the decision, while four dissented. The dissenters were Associate Justices Caguioa, Gesmundo, Reyes, Jardeleza and Del Castillo, Lucas Bersamin.

The majority decision said the court was "forced" to nullify the title of the Manotok family. Why was that? Well, the government doesn't dare commit—the cases dating back to the 1950s—did not have the signatures of witnesses was the Secretary of the Interior, Agriculture and Natural Resources at that time.

The dissenting opinion, on the other hand, held that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources already solved the problem that was basically just a technicality.

In fact, the DENR implemented the remedial measure to award them to the real estate arrest. Many other properties, including the land of the Cebu Country Club, were part of the "friar land." The DENR tried to anticipate the problems over the "friar land" ever way way into the future.

Here is the main worry: In the people who have paid for the land that happened to be part the "friar land," paid the taxes, and even built homes face the danger of losing their property?

And all because a government functionary some 90 years ago perhaps was too busy to go to work and did not do his job well. Isn't it ironic.

Associate Justice Bersamin, who was appointed to the Supreme Court only last month, wrote a three-page opinion.

It may not be as sinister as the dissenting opinion of the more experienced Senior Justice Carpio, but her views may be somewhat comforting to the real estate sector.

Bersamin said the majority decision was against the country's Torrens system and property laws, for one, because it disregarded decades upon decades of undisputed possession by the Manotok family of the property in question.

And all because of what—the government's deed of sale did not have the acknowledgment of an official.

Bersamin also opined that the majority decision did not clarify the question of law regarding hundreds of thousands of hectares of former "friar lands." On the contrary, Bersamin noted that it could create more dangers in the property systems in the country, something like land grabbing.

Such a scenario, according to Bersamin, may discourage investments. The owners of land may now be open to attacks from those wonderful land grabbers, for instance.

It seems Bersamin raised the issue of land grab-

Global recovery at risk if G20 fails on reforms

CALGARY—The world economy faces a long, hard slog toward recovery and could slide into deflation and financial instability if leaders fail to deliver on promises of reform, top policymakers said on Friday.

In a conference in Calgary, Alberta, Union special adviser Raul Baldner warned it would likely take years for the US economy to fully recover and three to six years to repair the global banking system.

"This isn't what we normally think of as economic recovery," Baldner said. "We will not reach peak levels of production ... for several years even on a reasonably optimistic trajectory ... assuming the economy gets by 2 percent a year."

Underscoring the unprecedented challenges that governments face, the central bank governors are grappling with, Baldner said the recovery so far does not fit with any historic pattern after past recessions.

"You think you're going back until instead of forwards. There's the very real risk economy feels at this point," he said.

It is a collective reality check amid conflicting data regarding the state of the global economy, other policymakers at the annual round table, which takes place at the Sprute Meadows equestrian facility outside Calgary, Alberta.

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney likened policymakers for failing to collectively prevent crises or mop up properly after they occur.

He challenged the G20 group of rich and emerging nations to do better, but said there was little sign of that so far.

The G20, which includes emerging giants China, India and Brazil, has replaced the smaller Group of Seven rich nations as the main forum for global economic policy.

"Time will tell whether G20 nations can before the underwhelming track record of the G7 in coordinating policies," he said. "Without the successful completion of G20 reforms, the current recovery is at risk."

After second day at a Toronto summit in June to a plethora of reforms, such as more exchange rate flexibility in China and bringing fiscal deficits under control in Europe and North America, Carney said countries are showing a lack of conviction as they head to a November summit in South Korea.

"The only measures that have actually been implemented have been consistent with the deflation path," he said.

Carney dismissed on an issue, what is "bizarre note" the idea of replacing the US dollar as the global reserve currency is proposed. But both China and Russia, some years G20 host, have talked behind.

He said G20 discussions will inevitably include debate on China's controls on its yuan currency, which by most accounts Chinese regulators undervalued.

China said in June it would let the yuan appreciate gradually against the dollar, a move the G20 applauded. Beijing has let the yuan rise 2 percent since then. Some Western critics don't think that pace is fast enough. Reuters

US economy will take years to recover, says gov't adviser

US stock market braces for busy trade ahead

NEW YORK—Higher volume and continued volatility amid a string of corporate news including earning reports from Intel, Oracle and Research in Motion, will likely mark this week's trade.

"[This week] could be the first real test of either investors are really thinking going into the fourth quarter," said Gina Martin, analyst at Wells Fargo Securities.

Investors will be focused on a slew of economic data that will stream in throughout the week, including figures on retail sales, industrial production, jobless claims and manufacturing survey from Dust. New York and Philadelphia.

Most analysts expect the data to underscore recent months' strengthening in the industry and manufacturing sectors, which have underpinned the United States' sluggish recovery from its worst recession in decades.

But indications on consumer mood and the state of the labor market are expected to have the biggest influences on the market.

"Manufacturing has been the underwater of the economy for at least the past six to 12 months. It is what same bank first [hears the recession] and what has been the base. You've got to broaden the base," she told AFP.

"You've got us be worried about the consumer confidence and spending and the labor market. There are a lot of numbers coming out, a lot of things that can move the market but those are the things that fundamentally will have the biggest impact."

Analysts said that political uncertainty also likely to sway markets ahead of November mid-term elections.

Last week, trade volume remained very low as the week was cut short by Monday's Labor Day holiday and the Jewish new year.

Last week saw "the usual ups and downs. We shouldn't be surprised to see the same kind of ups and downs [in the weeks ahead]. until we clear the election," independent market analyst Jon Sheriff said. "We're dealing with expectations rather than economic reality." AFP

CHINESE WORKERS select potatoes at a market in Hefei, in east in Anhui province. China's consumer prices rose at the fastest pace in nearly two years in August, the government said, as severe floods and unusually hot weather destroyed crops, driving up food prices. (See story below) —

New GM CEO's pay package worth $9M

DETROIT—Now General Motors Co. CEO Daniel Akerson will get up to $9 million in salary and stock, the same pay package granted to his predecessor, Ed Whitacre.

Akerson, a former telecommunications industry and private equity executive, will receive $1.7 million in annual salary, $1.3 million in short-term stock payable over the next years, and another $2 million in stock that's part of the company's long-term executive compensation plan.

The automaker, which is 60.8 percent owned by the US government, disclosed the pay package in a filing on Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It is silent on what the company disclosed for Whitacre in February.

Akerson also is on GM's board of directors, but will receive no compensation for his duties there, the filing said.

Akerson, GM's fourth CEO in less than two years, took over leadership of the company on Sept. 1.

Whitacre, CEO since December, said he stepped down because the company needed a chief executive who could focus on changing after it sells stock to the public. The sale, called an initial public offering, is expected in mid-November.

Whitacre, 68, a retired CEO of telecommunications giant AT&T Inc., said he didn't want to stay too long after the stock sale.

Whitacre received roughly $1.1 million of his $1.7 million annual salary for eight months as CEO, plus he will get the full $1.3 million in short-term stock compensation payable over three years starting in 2012, said GM spokeswoman Noreen Peterlee.

Peterlee also said that Akerson agreed to the pay package after the government's pay czar approved it Wednesday. Pay czar Kenneth Feinberg stepped down on Friday and was replaced by Treasury Department lawyer Patricia Geoghegan. AP

Breaktime ...

From page B9

long, taking all but the ceremony of an official of the Land Management Bureau, or the LMB, who discovered a document bearing the signature, stating it was a forged signature. the work of a long-gobbling syndicate that already possessed the LMB.

Then it sees the possibility that the land grabbers would use the Masbate case to legalize their nefarious schemes.

Luckily, in the court case involving the Masbate ranchland, crooking, ing land the authority appealed. Where did they come from if no firm government office like the LMB?

I just thought it was brave of lawyers to maintain the existence of land registration offices, when all know that they have screwed their way into the LMB and the Land Registration Authority, or LRA.

She said, "[The property division] enabled frigate of documents ... to take advantage of the absence of land owners, or the fact that the land owners had endured disaster or direction of its records due to fire, to steal land like candy vulnerable by these circumstances."

Which said that most be shot and snatched by those with criminal minds. Some of them already have thriving real estate businesses. Once a basis is laid already developed a subdivision or a land owner by an already owner somewhere along the Commonwealth Avenue area in Quezon City. No, the developer, who is the really subdivision, golf course, or, etc. I never paid for the land. That kind of land grabbing!

5 battle it out to become Wall Street sheriff

NEW YORK—All candidates vying to be the next so-called Sheriff of Wall Street say they will find the bad apples without overturning the applecart in the financial capital's fragile economic recovery.

In interviews, two of the candidates in the Sept. 14 Democratic Party primary cited either boards of directors or credit ratings agencies as municipal finance as areas where they should drop the elected New York state attorney General in the New Television.

Dan Donovan, 53, the sole Republican Party candidate for the office made famous by the aggressive stories of Eliot Spitzer says he is not interested in "dismantling the gardens" of Wall Street money, jobs and tax revenue vital to the economy of a state suffering from the effects of the recession.

"We want to encourage financial services to be here. A hedge fund is a company that can go anywhere," Donovan, who will face one of five Democratic Party candidates, said in an interview with Reuters.

The other Democrats in the race, county prosecutor Kathleen Rice, first-time political campaigner and trailblazer Bonnie Dinkins and state Senator Eric Schneiderman, fully embraces the nickname "Sheriff of Wall Street" unlike some of his opponents. The tag was applied to Spitzer during his 1999 through 2006 tenure and notoriously to the successor, Andrew Cuomo.

"It's something that is now part of the job description," said state senator Schneiderman, who has the backing of the party establishment. "I am willing to take on anybody."

Spitzer turned the office into an aggressive enforcer in the financial industry in an era of low-key federal regulation.

"People who say we don't need the AG to be the Sheriff of Wall Street are dead wrong in a time where there is still a lot of malfeasance in the markets," said Schneiderman, 55

INFOTECH

Learning tool of the future

By Raquel P. Gomez

IN THE near future, when the projector technology becomes cheap, teachers will be using pens with virtual ink to write on any wall—in lieu of the lowly blackboard and chalk—to teach lessons in hi-tech classrooms.

Epson, a top projector maker, recently introduced the EB-450Wi, an intelligent and interactive ultra short throw projector mounted on the ceiling that allows teachers or people who do presentations to conveniently turn a white board, a wall, or practically any smooth surface into an interactive presentation area.

The technology isn't new as projector combined with an interactive white board is already in use.

But the EB-450Wi went beyond this technology by featuring the ability to project onto any wall or surface, and the use of a digital infrared pen allows a presenter to manipulate interactive objects and features on screen—similar to using a mouse to move and point objects on the PC screen.

In addition, the EB-450Wi, which can be mounted on the ceiling of a classroom, features a short throw technology that almost totally eliminates glare and shadows from the projected light, resulting in seamless presentations with sharper colors and images.

"We believe that the Epson EB-450Wi's ultra short throw interactive projector is the ultimate learning tool of the future," said Epson senior general manager Ed Ramos.

Apart from the revolutionary EB-450Wi, Epson also introduced its latest projectors equipped with the dynamic 3LCD technology—a new projector technology that offers dedicated color projectors by using three separate LCD panels for red, green and blue (RGB) projections.

This ensures smooth projection of image without color breakup (or rainbow effect), distorted image patterns and visual fatigue.

Intended for large venue screenings, the EB-Z8050W is Epson's brightest projector boasting of a rating of 7,000 lumens.

The EB-Z8150W boasts the same, on the other hand, features the highest contrast ratio of 2500,000:1 (highest in the world for a projector) and capability of doing full HD 1080p, a feature that can already make a living room like a real cinema room when viewing movies using the projector.

For business use, the low power consuming EB-X series features cable-free projection, network control, and the ability to project JPG image files stored in flash drive or PC via USB ports.

Suggested retail price for the dynamic interactive projector EB-450Wi is P106,998, while the EB-Z8150W home theater projector carries an SRP of P156,000.

INFOTECH ROUNDUP

'Future of the Book' confab

THE NATIONAL Book Development Board (NBDB), Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP), Filipinas Heritage Library and Visual Foundation Inc. will host the first-ever digital publishing conference titled "The Future of the Book."

Ms Beata Rivera, "Book Publishing in the Global Digital Arena," the conference will be held on Sept. 13-14, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the UP-Ayala Technohub, Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Its "The Future of the Book," a one-look exposition of digital publishing—from authoring, editing and lay-outing to distribution and consumption—will be discussed by distinguished names from the international book publishing industry.

NCCA chair Dennis Gonzalez will give the welcome address, followed by a keynote speech by Ayala Corp. on what the future looks like for publishers and followed by five sessions.

Day 2 starts off with a talk on the "New Dynamics of Publishing" by Johannes Scholz, Executive Director, Publishers and Booksellers Association of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. Simultaneous breakout sessions in eight concurrent tracks will follow.

Registration fee is P1,000 for the two days or P600 for Day 2 only. Students with ID may avail themselves of a discounted fee of P500. Registration starts at 8 a.m. For details, e-mail Ivana Isola DE Rivera at bdap.foundation.org or call 416-0800 or 0906-3427714 and look for Karen Lucero.

Xperia X10 bags award

LONDON—Sony Ericsson announced that the Sony Ericsson Xperia X10 mini has been awarded "European Mobile Phone 2010-2011" by the European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA). Chosen for its unique combination of compact size and excellent performance with a comprehensive range of features, the accolade highlights Sony Ericsson's commitment to deliver smartphones optimized for communication and entertainment.

Editors from 30 specialist internet magazines across Europe singled out the Sony Ericsson Xperia X10 mini as their number one mobile phone, highlighting the mobile phone's style and design features.

Techtutor seminar

INLINE, with its commitment to continuously explore the role of technology in enhancing education and personalized professional development, introduces technology specialist Jerry Luan with his first seminar "TechTutor 2" seminar on Sept. 10 and 28 at SM Megamall's Mall 3.

The seminar will focus on collaborative web environments focused on wikis, social networking, and other social media applications.

The topics and dangers that surround the web, and the ability of "Web 3.0" will also be discussed. Tickets are available at Ticketnet outlets and SM Cinemas.

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2.1 speaker gets George Lucas' nod

ALTH-OUGH one could always buy Audios, Ativas, Intimo multimedia sound systems, Logitech Z-623's excellent sound and build quality and accessible current price would certainly make anyone stop and reconsider this three-piece device offering

Text and photos by Charles S. Bakas

WITH INSTALLING speakers on a desktop one usually opts for compact models as well as those that tend to free up space. The downside is that these speakers would just a little better than what the computer has.

Logitech has an excellent solution: the Z623, which offers only three speakers—two satellites and a subwoofer—making this 2.1, 200-watt speaker system THX certified.

To be THX certified is, of course, important for it means that this particular speaker system meets the fidelity standards set by Lucas Films for audio reproduction.

Most people associate THX to the movie theater experience revolutionized by George Lucas. The filmmaker's initiative to certify movie houses to become THX certified goes due to theaters that feature audio systems that comply with certain specifications. This ensures music people that the sound reproduced in the theater is a close approximation of what Lucas wants his moviegoers to listen.

Great idea

It's a great idea, and it has quickly spread out of the movie theater to home theater systems and even to our personal sound systems like this multimedia audio device.

The writer was intrigued and, to fully enjoy the experience, waited until nightfall to test the speaker system. After making sure that I was the only one left in my work station, I plugged the Z623 to my laptop and played a movie.

The Z623 proved to be a match for the action movie that featured pounding bass, explosions and minimal to quiet lines.

I then followed it up with a classical music DVD to sooth my ringing ears.

Awesome

Simply put, the Z623 sound all awesome. While the aspect ratio was not yet theater-like (hey, this is still a three-piece speaker system) the movie dialogues sounded crisp while action scenes and special effects were deep and jarring.

Every volume level was tuned all the way up, distortion was almost absent—thanks to the subwoofer's 7-inch premier driver and bass port.

Logitech engineers have succeeded with their close collaboration with THX engineers as this three-piece speaker system delivers excellent audio performance and surprising power despite its price tag of just under P8,000.

With each satellite's single, 2.5-inch drivers delivering 35 watts and the sub pumping out another 130 watts, the Z623 is definitely powerful enough to rattle walls and free standing items in your room.

Listening to tenors Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti was indeed rejuvenating as this writer was able to enjoy their rich and powerful voices as well as their accompanying orchestra.

Easy set up

Setting up the Z623 is also easy with the RCA and 3.5 mm inputs, in addition to the 7mm headphone jack, this speaker system could be hooked up to the computer or TV in just a few minutes. The right satellite speaker integrated the controls to dial up the volume and bass in accordance to your listening preference.

While the Z623's short and wide satellite speakers (19.6 cm tall, 14.2 cm wide and 13.7 cm thick at the base) will fit most work or play station, the accompanying subwoofer may need a much larger floor fit (46.1 cm x 16 cm x 26.4 cm cabinet). The subwoofer will take up a significant amount of space and its output could rattle the glass walls of the building.

Many films and video games carry the "THX" mark and hope to prove their worth as high quality audio or video sources. For the Z623 to carry the THX certification is actually a big come up for enthusiasts who would love their speakers to be able to produce the exact sound as those THX Certified sources are capable of.

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SATELLITE M645

More than just a pretty face, laptop rates well in performance

By Raquel P. Gomez

TOSHIBA'S Satellite M645

GONE ARE the days when laptops looked like ugly thick slabs that focused only on performance and shunned aesthetic appeal.

Today laptops served up in the mass consumer market do not only boast of performance and features, they also look cool. Users get to feel like they own valuable pieces of property.

One such laptop is Toshiba's Satellite M645, a 14-inch display multimedia laptop powered by the new Intel Core i5 processor. The Satellite is part of the "premier series" of Toshiba's family of notebooks.

The Satellite lineup of notebooks was developed by Toshiba for consumers who prefer pretty functional devices.

So what makes the Satellite M645 stand out?

For one, this laptop comes in all-black glossy textured finish, which spills over onto the keyboard area. The top chassis cover is more reflective or the resin-reinforced panel, providing the notebook with pretty subdued hints of black and dark gray.

But more than just a pretty face, the Satellite is meant to deliver top multimedia experience.

The laptop boasts of a pair of built-in Harman Kardon speakers, a dedicated 1 GB NVIDIA GeForce graphics card (powerful enough to run games with Direct X requirements), and a slim slot loading DVD Superdrive. Even large hover close pop-out keys of other laptops.

Be amazed and amused by the lights emanating from the laptop.

The tiled keyboard, with comfortable floating keys, is illuminated, which may help a user type in the dark.

There's also the "multimedia [illegible] located on top of the keyboard, which features touch buttons that are immediately activate apps without the user having to navigate the screen with a mouse or touchpad.

As the Satellite M645 features more power, Toshiba has also made it into a green PC by incorporating an eco-utility feature. Once the laptop is not in use, it switches to eco mode. Ambient sensors automatically adjust the screen's brightness to the surrounding light conditions.

The Satellite M645 features "Resolution + Technology," a Toshiba technology that instantly scales up the quality of DVD movies for sharper images and more vibrant colors.

Also the unit can enjoy full 1080p HD video and sound via the HDMI-OUT, which links the laptop to a Toshiba full HDTV.

It also features bundled software such as Smartface, which allows the user to log on to his account via Toshiba's face recognition technology.

There's also the HDD Illusk protection with 3D motion sensor, fingerprint security sales and the deep-end classic feature, allowing users to enjoy music from a DVD part even when all DVD player even when the notebook is turned off.

With a suggested retail price of P56,990, the Satellite M645 promises elegance and performance in one powerful device.

BUSINESS

RP rank in World Competitiveness Report improves

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY'S rank improved by two notches in the latest World Competitiveness Report, placing 85th among 139 economies reviewed. The Philippines ranked 87th last year.

Economic managers said the improved competitiveness ranking of the Philippines, which got a score of 3.96 in the latest report, came after registering a respectable recovery from the global economic turmoil last year. The economy posted a 7.9-percent year-on-year growth in the first semester.

The World Competitiveness Report, published yearly by the World Economic Forum, measures the competitiveness of economies covered based on three major areas: Basic requirements, efficiency enhancers, and innovation and sophistication.

Under the first category, the Philippines ranked 88th. This area covers a country's level of infrastructure, macroeconomic stability, quality of health services and education and efficiency of institutions.

The country ranked poorly in this area, officials said, due to scarce resources for infrastructure and social services projects.

Under the second category of "efficiency enhancers", the Philippines ranked 78th. This covers higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labor market efficiency, financial-market development, technological readiness and market size.

Under innovation and sophistication of business category, the Philippines ranked 71th.

NEP said the three categories were deemed appropriate measures of competitiveness, noting that the economic performance of a country alone would not give the entire picture of how well a country was performing.

"The concept of competitiveness, involves static and dynamic components. Although the productivity of a country closely determines its ability to sustain a high level of income, it is also one of the crucial determinants of the returns to investment, which is a key factor explaining an economy's growth potential," the report said.

The Aquino administration's economic team claimed the government aims for improved competitiveness of the country, as they target a much faster growth for the economy and investment of public service delivery through curbing corruption over the medium term.

RP exports to Japan up 25% in first 7 mo

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CONTINUING recovery of the Japanese economy is benefiting the Philippines, with exports to that market rising by 24.9 percent in the first seven months of the year to $4.4 billion, from $3.5 billion a year ago.

However, according to data from the Japan External Trade Organization, the figure was still lower than the amount posted in the same period in 2008, before the world, particularly the United States and Japan, took a huge blow from the recession.

Exports to Japan were at $5.1 billion in January to July 2008.

The latest Jetro report also showed that Philippine imports from Japan likewise increased in the first seven months of the year to $6.2 billion, 51.0 percent higher than the $4.1 billion in the same period in 2009.

As of end-July, the country accounted for 1.5 percent of total Japanese exports and contributed 1.2 percent to imports.

Japan posted a trade surplus of more than $1.8 billion during the period.

For July alone, the value of goods shipped to Japan rose 13.6 percent to almost $697.1 million, from last year's $583.3 million.

Imports from Japan in the same period jumped to $910.6 million, up 29.2 percent from the $752.6 million posted a year ago.

Around 1.4 percent of Japan's July exports went to the Philippines, while Japan got 1.2 percent of its imports from the country.

SMDC to sell new shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of tycoon Henry Sy plans to raise about P4.6 billion in fresh funds for his growing residential development arm SM Development Corp. through the sale of new shares to existing stockholders.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMDC said its board had approved the offering of 1.61 billion new shares through a stock rights offering.

Under the approved entitlement ratio, shareholders will have the right to purchase one additional share for every three existing SMDC shares held. About 36 percent of SMDC's shares are held by the public.

Based on SMDC's closing price of P7.20 per share at the stock market on Tuesday, the additional shares offering would be worth about P12 billion, this assuming a 10:00 percent discount to market price. SMDC is expected to generate about P9.0 billion from the exercise.

Every capital-raising through the sale of shares to existing investors usually offers a discount to attract buyer to make the exercise more attractive.

In its disclosure, SMDC said proceeds from the fundraising would be used for land banking and project development.

The offering seeks to take advantage of the bullish local stock market sentiment and on SMDC's prospects as a fast-growing residential developer. When SMDC raised P30 billion from a private debt offering earlier this year, investors wondered why the company did not sell equity instead.

Although a stock rights offer will not widen SMDC's public float, it will beef up the company's market capitalization of almost P40 billion at present.

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BUSINESS Monday

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Developing values to better manage corporations

By Marlet D. Salazar

JONATHAN Juan DC. Moreno

CORPORATE governance is more than just a buzzword or a dated trend in the corporate world. In many ways, it applies to any organization be it in the private or public sector. Corporate governance may be considered a "way of life" where certain practices, processes, and policies affect and benefit stakeholders of an organization.

Jonathan Juan DC. Moreno, PCD, president and chief executive officer of Institute of Corporate Directors, is one who believes that this culture of sorts will enable many businesses, companies, and government institutions to exercise best practices.

Corporate governance, is a symbol, ensures the accountability of certain individuals in an organization. The main stakeholders include shareholders, board of directors, employees and the public at large.

Corporate culture

"It is a system of managing and directing an organization with the idea of creating long-term sustainable values," Moreno explains. "Modern corporate governance dictates you do not only make money for shareholders."

Moreno believes that good corporate governance should be part of a corporation's culture in order it to thrive and flourish.

"It is a system of managing and directing an organization with the objective of creating long-term sustainable values for shareholders, with due regard to the corporation's stakeholders."

Moreno adds that "while shareholders are important, there are other stakeholders in the corporation whose rights and interests have to be protected, and as the future belongs to companies who understand and embrace this fact."

One proof that corporate governance is extremely in the public sector is Moreno's participation in introducing it to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in line with its modernization program. Moreno is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

Good management

Discovering his corporate inclination, he enrolled at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and finished his MBA at the Melbourne Business School in Australia. He then studied at the Harvard Business School in Australia. He then studied at the Australian Institute of Company

DEVELOPING, B2-3

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MAPPING THE FUTURE

Alexa Ross R. Antonette

Thinking in the Future Tense

We still in the midst of transitions. The political landscape has changed, carried by a promise of new order. The global economics is also shifting and with the financial crash in 2008 we are transitioning into a new organizational spine, all eyes are focused in Asia and the emergence of China as an economic power.

One of the well learned lessons of the decade, however, is that there is no such thing as long term and one event can quickly turn past successes to a major failure.

The future will not be made to order and the only certainty will be that numerous need to be resilient and adaptive, if they are to successfully navigate the uncharted seas. Those who lead will not have all the answers but they will be expected to have a pioneering spirit that will be unafraid to try the new and unusual. How does creative and visionary leaders will spring the next-generation organization.

What will the world be like for the next-generation organizations? Aging societies, emerging economic superpowers, complex environments, changing workforce profile, new technologies...the list is getting longer. Bob Chitchio, the Asia Pacific regional managing director of Towers Watson, joins Shamsher Zhang chair of Del Asia Pacific and Grace Choquet, Partners Strategy and Transformation of IBM Worldwide in debating the new challenges in business management.

Who will be the next-generation leaders? Will they be born to it or will they emerge from

Alexa Ross is the Chief Executive Officer of Towers Watson, Asia Pacific.

how some processes whose ability to service a market gap will be the future success stories? Dominic Tantuco, president of Shopwise, and Francis Glenn Yu, CEO of Brand Group, share the limelight with Drs. Vicki Belo, founder and medical director of the Belo Medical Group and Marvin Lorenzo, chair and CEO of the Pancake House Group.

Finally, Glenn Rebelleda will talk about how he created a "new" boardroom from a pediatrician and dominations an example of talent management by pioneering the concept of motivated and empowered volunteers to work for a dream.

This year's International CEO Conference of The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) will explore the intelligence behind these leaders of tomorrow. Speakers invited to who fall below the radar but have quietly built successful companies through their grit, determination and strong entrepreneurial spirit. It will highlight new business models that helped build and grow new and successful companies as well as those that went from strength to strength through well-managed transitions.

In the past, MAP featured high-profile businesses that made good and continue to add to its profitability year-to, year-out, earning recognition and admiration. Dean Dark points. This year's conference will also tell the interesting stories about those who fell under the radar—new "empire-builders" who were able to get more from the already-used resources they possess into their businesses and succeeded.

In these travel and tested business leaders and the new breed of entrepreneurs, MAP is fixing to new lease on the lush of the best in management.

The MAP Conference will be held on Sept. 14, 08:30, Tuesday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bleu Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La. For inquiries/reservations, please contact the MAP secretariat via telephone (753 1749 to 52) or email (mapphilippines.com.ph or mapsecretariat@globelines.com.ph. For sponsorship, please visit <http://map.org.ph/>.)

The author is chair of the MAP International CEO Conference Committee, president of Towers Congress, and president and CEO of Health Solutions Corporation. Feedback at mapph@globelines.com.ph. For sponsorship, please visit <http://map.org.ph/>.)

Manila Water marks 13 years of winning partnerships

In 1997, water service in Metro Manila was inadequate and hampered by rationing. Illegal connections, 90% water supply delivery was merely one and, at times, impossible. Worse, water leaks, which were the main cause of water loss, were at their peak.

But all of these circumstances took a 180-degree turn 13 years later, when Manila Water took over the service coverage of 23 cities and municipalities of Eastern Metro Manila and Rizal Province, ensuring 24/7 water service to the people, reduction of water and wastewater service to more than 6.1 million customers. This new era has been marked by a successful partnership and unity between the public and private sectors, with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Manila Water exemplified, but also between Manila Water itself and its business partners.

And this partnership was highlighted during the recently held Manila Water "Gratitude Night" at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. Manila Water president and CEO Gerry Ablaza Jr. acknowledged that a huge part of Manila Water's efficient water and wastewater service has been facilitated by the partnerships it has cultivated with various private vendors and suppliers that have helped the company achieve the status as one of the country's leading service providers in the industry today.

Citing during the celebration night were top vendors that included Macias Builders, LD Garcia, MLI, Hitit, MIDA, DEDC, Makati Sounding Mobile, Fabon, Golden Bain, Mayes, MIC, JPL Goodsone, OSE Boats, Sanbon, Unifield and Lopez.

Runners race to save barako trees

By Amy R. Rivera

SOME 3,000 RUNNERS recently raced to the Bric Pigato Park from held earlier this month, in a bid to help save the Philippine "barako" trees.

Dubbed as the "Race to Save the Barako Tree," the marathon had specifically targeted to raise funds for Figaro Coffee Foundation and increase public awareness of the so-called "kape barako," a superior coffee variety grown mostly in the provinces of Batangas and Cavite.

Art L. Barrogo, marketing manager of Figaro Coffee Systems Inc., explains that Figaro Foundation plans to use the proceeds of the fun run to fund various activities that would boost the barako farmers such as coffee tree planting, harvest and farm tours, seminars and other technical assistance to farmers, provide linkage between farmers and local government units, among others.

"The runners' support showed us that there are willing to help our local coffee farmers, not least which our coffee industry will not survive," Barrogo stresses.

Figaro, the country's largest homegrown coffee company, currently buys coffee beans each mountains of Batangas and Cavite at an average of 20,000 kilos of coffee per year. This benefits 67 farmers and their families.

The event that more dedicated runners to school, more families are able to buy food and medicines and earn more savings, Figaro adds.

The coffee chain has also already integrated Kalinga, Bigan, Benguet, Batangas, Cavite, Negros, Davao, Iloilo and Basilan in to the company's supply chain.

"With more farmers harvesting coffee, more Figaro coffee consumer to enjoy more of Figaro coffee," adds company president Ernesto Ortanez.

The First Figaro Fun Run was held last June 5 at the Bonifacio High Street, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Runners were already at the 5th Street at the Global City at early as 5 a.m. to prepare for the gun start at 6 a.m. They were treated to free flowing coffee from Figaro and Iglu breakfast and other freebies from the sponsors.

Runners, some of whom were set joining as 7 years-old, pacted around in the 3 Kilometer (3K), 5K and 10K event. Some runners even brought their pets to join the marathon.

Aside from the marathon itself, the Figaro event offered other activities such as free massage, photo booth, free coffee tasting and a zumba session.

"We are very impressed with the turnout of our first fun run. We would like to congratulate all the participants and sponsors for joining our campaign to save the barako tree," Barrogo says.

Sponsors of the event were 1Shot, 90 Tribe, San Marino, Fantasia, Cebuana Lhuillier, Cardenia, Sonata Valley, Blue Project, Fitness First, Breakthrough, Unilever, Century, Tuffmaster, Taobi, Meadow Fresh, Plantech, Centertech, Fitness and Nutrition Foodcourt. The event was organized by IOO events headed by coach Rhendell Bandalan with the assistance of coaches Jeanne Ibañez and Jonas Ibañez.

Established in 1993, Figaro is a 100% homegrown coffee company whose product lines include specialty roasted local coffee varieties and various coffee-related paraphernalia. Some stores carry a complete lineup of coffee drinks, breakfast, pasta, pizza, all day breakfast, ala carte, sandwiches and pastries.

Figaro currently has around 65 branches nationwide, most of which are in Luzon. Of these branches, 35 are franchise-owned and 30 are company-owned.

FIGARO Marathon participants appear to be all set to hit the track.

From page B1-A

IABC Philippines launches 3 new top awards for the 2010 Quill Competition

THE INTERNATIONAL Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines launches the 2010 Philippine Quill Awards with three new top awards honoring the most outstanding works in communication management, communication skills and communication campaigns.

The last three weeks will be selected from the pieces of winners in the 27 categories of the Quill awards.

This innovation on the Philippine Quill awards supports the global concept of IABC Philippines, the first chapter established outside of North America.

Begun in 1970, IABC is a professional network of about 15,000 business communication professionals in over 80 countries.

Philippine leaders have held regional events in the organization: Dipi Cruz, Beng Osorio, Bay Arboleda Dayrit, Jr., and currently, Ariel Villarete Fernandez.

The new awards are initiated by its newly-elected board of directors: Ellen Tordesillas, Lopez Group Corp., chairman; Dida Arce of GMA Network, president; Alice Villarete Fernandez, communication and PR consultant, vice president; Sheryll Ilas of ABC Development Corp. (TV), secretary; Jeff Encinas of Globe Telecom, treasurer; Rachel Ocsa of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., auditor; nuzon Green, Commission of BM Philippines, Susan Ople of Lopez Holdings Corp., Joe Valderrama of Meralco, Claire Pujo of Unilab, and Chito Macapagal of Unilever Philippines; and Intendencia past president Dey Anthony David, Jr. as ex-officio members. Presidential Communications Operations Office Sec. Herminio "Jerry" Coloma, Jr. led their send-off talks last Aug. 27.

The Philippine Quill Awards, the country's most prestigious award for business communication, pare locally based companies in competitive footing with those entering the global IABC Gold Quill Awards.

In some 30 years, more than a dozen Philippine entries have won excellence and merit awards in the competition, which draws more than 1,000 entries all over the world.

The winners are outstanding examples of the relevance, innovation, and often game-changing role of communication in business, government, and social responsibilities," says IABC Philippine President Dix Arce, Corporate Affairs Consultant of GMA Network Inc.

Deadline for submission of entries for the Philippine Quill is on Sept. 28.

Awarding ceremonies will be held on Nov. 15 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria, Ortigas Center.

Entry forms and more information are available at the IABC Newsletter, tel. no. 7500441, 7500451, or e-mail info@iabc.com.ph.

Bulacan entrepreneur taps inmates . . .

From page B1-A

degree from the Bulacan Junior College here (now Bulacan University) in 1973, a year after Ville Ionas died. Ionas, who was not yet 20 years old, was supposed to be a partner in the family's funeral business.

Ionas says her exposure and training in the business since her childhood gave her the confidence to help the business grow.

"They would bring me to the market to sell hats and they taught me how to answer back. They even chased business tips. When [Ville Ionas's] father died, I was ready to take on this business," she says.

"Kinuwento lahat sa akin ang salitwa kasi kailan nila siguro ang kompetisyon ko or pagsasara. And as negosyo nila (They shared with me the secrets of their success because they probably saw how loyal and devoted I was to their business)," she added.

When Ionas was diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1980s, she made because the role her of the family's property. But this did not sit well with the Villanueva couple's relatives.

Despite the troubles, Ionas, who died in 1993, helped Ionas build her family's house in Barangay Mojon de las Flores here.

Armed with the lessons she learned from the Villanueva couple, Decena started a funeral for mourning business that she hoped would help the poor people in her town.

Toyota sets aside P81M for Cagayan reforestation

From page B2-A

and environment officials in a ceremonial tree planting for the project here on a Sunday.

Roberto Ang, administrative project, which will run through the help of Conservation International, is TMC's "contribution... to our global environment in a wider range."

He says TMC is not funding the project to enhance its image following the recent recall of defective Toyota vehicles in the United States. "[The] is not to create the impression of our image in the Philippines, not only in Japan," he says.

Business says funding the project is the company's commitment to environmental protection and part of its corporate social responsibility.

Former Toyota, Conservation International country director, says funds left from the project's first phase have been reprogrammed for other reforestation activities, such as manpower needed and planting materials.

"The most essential element of the reforestation project is the sense of ownership of almost 800 families living near the area so the agroforestry area would give them an additional source of income," Toyota says.

The project involved the establishment of a forest dedicated to the harvest of firewood. It also encourages villagers to plant alternative income crops in light of illegal logging and shortages in the area.

The P810Pt-law phase, through a TCGmil, has yet fund (P89.56 million) from TMC, is harvested 912 farmers, rehabilitated 368 hectares through enhancement planting and restored 368 hectares for agroforestry.

Those near the Pelobillano reforestation... located in the villages of Iraan, Callunan, Bagong San Roque and Mangga—face within the protected landscape and seascape in the town and one of the key biodiversity areas in the country.

Various threatened and endemic species of plants and animals, including the Philippine eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi), have come and recorded in the protected site, which hosts rare species.

Archaeological studies period pieces of evidence of early human living in the caves in the park, making it one of the important archaeological sites in the country.

Nilo Tagubo, Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer in Cagayan, cites TMC's help in reviving forests in the province.

"[The project is a] real example that [TMC and other stakeholders] are really committed to help in the reforestation of our area," he says.

Tagubo says DENR would complement the project by strengthening its anti-illegal logging drive.

Developing values to better manage corporations

From page B2-1

Director in Sydney, Australia.

Other endeavors

Corporate reformist, though doesn't name, making money his making that good management can reform/ change a culture in a good way. Monroe shared it in one study by Dr. Stephen Chang, a corporate governance expert, which showed that corporate governance in the Philippines had improved in the last five years.

Monroe says his education at IBM and the PMA complement his other studies. "I believe IBM provided the baseline for my other endeavors," he says. "My business education leveraged the many other things I did after that."

At IBM, Monroe learned from members of the family who encourage substantive discussion, while at Melbourne, underscores contribute heavily to the discussion, he says.

His studies at Yale centered on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). He also took advanced studies in Responsible Business from the International Center for Corporate Social Responsibility at the Nottingham University Business School in Nottingham, England, UK. He was a recipient of the Chevening Fellowship from the UK government.

In the United Kingdom, his learning was intensive and based heavily on research. Most of his teachers are PhDs.

Platform

"My MBA is my platform to do other specialize in other fields, in the case, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility," he explains.

He mentions the discipline and the analytical skills he developed. Business decisions cannot be based on mere hunch but on methodical analysis. Monroe carries with him the discipline he acquired from the military school and executives systematic approach to business.

Monroe relates that his first job as CEO was to draft a business plan for a non-government organization. He accepted the challenge. The greatest compliment he got for this was when the World Bank asked him if it would adapt that particular business plan for when ever it would fit in projects it initiated somewhere in the world. IGD started in 1999 and helped organize boards with the right mix and understanding of corporate governance.

Monroe's work in corporate governance is recognized but only in the Philippines has elsewhere in the world. He is an adviser to the GRCD. Asia Roundtable on Corporate Governance. He is also a corporate governance consultant to the corporate governance unit of the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank group.

You. Powered by Citi.

citibank

Discover the True Power Behind Citi

From everyday payment convenience to long-term financial planning, its more than one million clients in the Philippines affirm Citi as their bank partner of choice.

"Our customers live the most active and dynamic lives imaginable," opens Sanjiv Vohra, Citi's Country Head for the Philippines. "Their lives cross geographical boundaries, they now actively look across for opportunities to develop themselves, or to simply enjoy life."

Citi Country Head Sanjiv Vohra (top front, left) with members of Citi's country management team (from left): Kristine Bradley, Lizbeth Tantoy, Ruty Wahba, Francis Covestano and Lisa Trinidad-Lee

With the growing sophistication of today's consumers, choosing Citi, the bank that never sleeps, appears to be the most logical choice. With a footprint in over 100 countries, the choice of more than 200 million clients from enterprises, individuals, companies, institutions, and governments, one certainly can't go wrong with Citi.

"Citibank is the world's global bank and we put the power of our organization, the depth of our expertise, and the quality of our service to work for each and everyone of our customers so that what we do can help them do what they want to do better, faster, smarter," states Vohra.

You: Powered by Citi

The country's largest foreign bank has just launched a new campaign that celebrates how Citi powers its clients through wealth creation, mobilizing capital, commerce and cash flow, turning dreams, futures, and plans into realities.

"Citi's combined strengths in the areas of expertise, technology and global reach allow us to empower our customers' lives to provide them with relevant financial solutions, make their everyday payments easy, offer them greater and more convenient access to their money, and give them the rewarding experience with every transaction powered by Citi," says Cecilia Fonacier, Cashview Franchise Director.

"For local and multinational companies, banks and institutional investors, Citi Philippines' Global Markets delivers a focused and comprehensive coverage through a talented and seasoned team. The Global Markets group draws on world class regional and global product support to augment its deep knowledge and experience in the local financial markets. This combination works best in providing customers with innovative value-added solutions and seamless execution of trades. We are particularly proud of the recognition our clients give us, by consistently positioning us on top rankings in various polls, whether it be for foreign exchange service, innovative products, structured ideas, or electronic trading platforms. Our investor sales people and macroeconomic strategists are consistently top-rated and rank among the best in the industry. We power every deal, every transaction–simple or complex– with the best that Citi has to offer" says Arnie Fernandez, Global Markets Cluster Head for ASEAN ex-Singapore and Country Treasurer for the Philippines.

Over the last 108 years, Citi has strongly woven itself into the fabric of the country's financial infrastructure. From providing funding for the country's first hospital, made to bring the "first bank to open after the war, to innovating for consumers to make simple tasks even simpler, or better a joy to do.

Citi is known for making credit cards accessible to middle class Filipinos, when it lowered the income requirements to ten per cent back to the 1990s. That move changed the credit landscape overnight, transforming credit cards from a privilege only for the elite, to a most convenient payment tool for the working professionals. Since then, it has remained the market leader where it now dominates with a 25% market share in sales with 35% of total cards issued in the country bearing the Citi mark.

Citi Country Management Team members (from left): Vivin Ramirez, Noel Portions, Jose Tan, Nobby Abaya and Benjie Olivo

The country's largest foreign bank is also acknowledged for providing the most competitive and advanced range of cash management, trade services, and global securities and funds services in the Philippines. It is also the chosen house bank by a majority of the largest and most important local and international companies and financial institutions in the country.

Citi remains the leader in foreign Exchange, Fixed Income and Derivatives Structuring for the Corporate Market segment as evidenced by its consecutive sweep of Asiamoney FX Poll (Best in Overall FX Services, Best for Innovative FX Products and Structures Ideas, Best Electronic Trading Platform, Best for Prime Brokers), and the CFO Asiamoney Structured Products Poll.

Despite the global financial crisis, Citi in the Philippines has consistently won the awards given by Finance Asia as Best Foreign Commercial Bank for 14 consecutive years. The Asset's Triple A Best Bank in the Philippines for six years running and Alpha Southeast Asia's Best Foreign Bank for the past two years.

Citi is not content to rest on its many achievements through the last century, and continues to come up with new ideas to serve customers better, faster and smarter. "We understand the consumers' needs and respond real through more secure, but with best-in class products," says Vohra. "We put the power of our organization, the depth of our expertise, and the quality of our service to work for each and every one of our customers."

Citi puts a high premium on quality service. Clients come first, and products and services are continuously improved and reshaped to reflect the increasingly sophisticated needs of the people it serves.

To top it all off, Citi is an unprecedented leader in innovation with many groundbreaking initiatives under its belt–as it applies rapidly changing technologies to simplifying the lives of its clients and help them reach their goals.

Citi Country Management Team members (from left): Cecille Fonacier, Tonet Ichon, Pia Lagoon and Arnie Fernandez

"Everything we do is created for a world where borders are becoming irrelevant. We use our presence, technology, and expertise to deliver our services across borders and we bring to every market we are in the best that the world has to offer," Vohra concludes.

The next few pages will bring to light how Citi has made an impact on the lives of its clients, the careers of its workforce, as well as the advancement of the communities it belongs to. Get to know the stories behind people and institutions whose every day is powered by Citi.

Citi: Powered by Citi

Citi's new campaign, encapsulates the bank's unique ability to empower its customers to achieve their goals, whether it be for individuals, companies, institutions, governments, or communities. Citi's campaign is a reflection of the bank's dedication to its clients, and its ability to help them realize their dreams.

108 Years in the Philippines

For more than a century, Citi has been empowering the Filipino in so many ways.

Truly Integrated Banking from Citi

Citi is proud of its strong legacy of success in the country's financial infrastructure.

To a first-time visitor, Citi's corporate banking headquarters in Makati may appear intimidating. It is cool, even cold in its architecture–businesslike, atmosphere. It certainly befits the country's leading foreign bank, engaged by corporate clients with footprints from all over the world, whose billions of dollars' worth of transactions go through Citi every single day.

Managing Director for Global Transaction Services (GTS) Tonet Ichon puts it simply: "Our corporate clients have everyday transactions–they need to collect, pays, remit. If you multiply that by their number of business activities and employees, that can be daunting. This is where we step in."

Simple as it may sound, the work in GTS GTS is no skeleton matter. Every day, they process over 30,000 transactions worth over $6 billion, servicing more than 1,000 corporate customers. Today, GTS ETI are in the Philippines is not only the largest and most profitable, but also the fastest growing transaction bank in the country.

Today, Citi's Global Transaction Services arm in the Philippines is not only the largest and most profitable, but also the fastest growing transaction bank in the country.

Banking Outsourced

"The first type of service we offer is cash management. When corporate customers buy materials from their suppliers, they incur payables. When they sell, they create accounts receivables. We pay their suppliers, collect from their customers, and if there are terms, we provide financing as well," Ichon explains further.

The second type of service is trade. "This is the same as buying materials and selling your products, except that normally, it'll go out of the country or come from out of the country," adds Ichon. The transaction is practically the same– is paying and collecting involved. This is typically done for a manufacturing company.

But for investors like insurance companies, securities and funds services are offered. "For instance, their business is selling insurance, so they have to invest premium and invest the money because they need to be able to pay out later on," Ichon says. Citi does all the investing for them. Again, Ichon explains, this is no different from the usual flow of transactions: "You want to buy a share, sell a share, buy a treasury bill, it's buying, selling, collecting, and planning."

So in this basic flow of cash– whether it's for domestic manufacturing or multinational companies, or investors the transactions involved are managed under GTS ETI.

Adds Ichon: "We see it for our customers whose core business is not making a commodity and selling it, or selling insurance. Their business is not collecting, investing, paying. This outsource it. In a sense, our business is having our customers outsource to us all their banking." continued in page 21

"Thank You, Citi!"

Industry leaders look back at their time under the red arc.

Gerry Ablaza
President and CEO
Manila Water Company

"Citi's reputation as a professional institution is so high that it always attracted the best and the brightest."

During the time of John Reed, he thought that the better people to run the consumer bank were actually the non-bankers with a marketing background. His background was in manufacturing, so that's how I got into Citi as part of an experiment. Before I left in 1997, I was the first Filipino Branch Country Business Manager for Consumer Bank for the Philippines and Guam.

Pioneering Consumer Banking

We were able to make the consumer bank of CityTrust (a local bank owned 49 percent by Citibank), one of the leading consumer banks. We brought it back into mortgage lending, auto lending, very aggressive deposit-taking. We made customer service excellence the centerpiece of our customer proposition. In seven years, we multiplied more than ten times the net earnings of CityTrust.

We empowered our people with the financial services that we supported them with, to build Citibank and CityTrust, the core proposition is excellent customer service.

The Best and the Brightest

Citi is really, by a career professional, an institution for some. First, its reputation as a professional institution is so high that it always attracted the best and the brightest. And when you're operating among talented people, it makes you grow. Second, it's performance-oriented. If you deliver the goods, you will be recognized and you will advance in your career. Those two gave you the tools. I must have gone through two dozen workshops, at least many of them interbehavior where you not only learn the best banking and marketing technology, you also get to interact with the best and the brightest globally.

For me, pag dumaan ka talaga sa Citibank, you are specially privileged to give back what you have learned from that institution. And if you look around today, pag sinabi mong ex-Citi, mga pinuno sila ng kumpanya or bangko sama of them are in government or in industry, but always very good workers secretive, perfectionist-oriented professionals.

Rose Montenegro
President
Makati Medical Center

"Training in Citi is exceptional; it is a core value that the company truly believes in."

Where I am today is a great national is because of the 11 years with Citi.

I had come from the automotive industry, with zero banking experience, when I joined Citi in 1980. My old company closed because it ran out of dollars, and I wanted to work for a company that wouldn't run out of dollars. At that time, they had only started consumer banking, and they were looking for people who understood marketing.

The Citi Culture

I did operations, marketing and sales, quality, and I also set up Customer Banking. Citi doesn't make you stay in just one job. I attended so many courses! They sent me to banking, treasury, and credit training. I think that's why the presidents of most companies now are ex-Citibankers. Training is a core value, and even if we had to do cost-cutting during our time, they wouldn't cut that. That was one of the things the company really believed in. They will train you, not just here in the Philippines but across Asia-Pacific.

That was the culture. You talk on the plane, get the best practices from from there, and people would share information. Citi is really a global company that happens to be based in New York, as opposed to an American company with global interest. It's really multicultural.

Passing on Opportunities

Citi was the high point of my career in terms of satisfaction and training. And I believe you also have by giving to others. The guy who brought me to Citi—there was no way I could repay him for giving me a job when it was very hard to find one. He made it possible for me. So I advocate my personnel had a friend in ADB who was Indian, whose biggest dream was to work for Citibank, India. But he said, in India, you would never be able to open a door. So I introduced him to the Citibank head who was here on a visit, and he got hired; now he's a VP. So I owed back by passing on to others. When they ask me how to thank me, I say, do the same. When the opportunity don't be selfish.

Citi always goes for the best talent, the best quality. When you get to Citi, you don't get the feeling that you can't get ahead if you don't work hard. It's not who you know. You can always get ahead if you're hardworking and smart.

Jose Rene Almendras
Secretary, Department of Energy
Republic of the Philippines

"Citi was a place where I could grow, regardless of age or leanings."

When I graduated from college, I didn't know what to do. I wanted for the family business for a year, then I got into the management training program at CityTrust. I realized I liked it, I thought this was probably a place where I could grow, regardless of age or leanings.

The Start of Priority Banking

After being in operations, I joined Citibank Cebu as Account Management Group Head. We started what is now known as Citigold; we set up the first priority banking center in the Philippines, which was in Cebu. We started with a business volume of about P50 or P60 million within six months, we reached P300 million. By the first year, we had close to a billion-peso-plus in deposits.

How did we do this? We changed the rule of our check, used studied the letters, the queuing system, to make the bank consumer-acceptable. We won the highest customer satisfaction rating second to Citibank Orchard Road Singapore in the Philippines, we were the best.

Great Faith, Valuable Trust

All Citi people empowered in varying degrees. I didn't seem old but the faith and trust they would give to you—that was great! I was supervising people twice my age; I was heading a dept where many other progressive were at least 10 years my senior. They saw my potential, to sure my process but I think that is key.

In all the organizations that I've had the opportunity to run, I carried that through. People will make the organization great or make it fail. That's what makes an organization live long: their adherence to people.

Hans Sicat
Chairman, Philippine Stock Exchange
CEO, LegalPro Corporation

"It's deep bench and the institutionalization of processes have made Citi less dependent on any single personality."

My first job at Citi how I was a summer internship in 1980. I was invited to a luncheon where we sat with then-Investing Chairman and CEO John Reed. They talked to a number of us, trying to convince us to join the organization. I thought, "Wow! This company cares!"

Setting the Bar

At Citi, both the institution and my bosses always gave me responsibilities that were probably a notch or two above the current experience and capabilities. This forced a great deal of learning on the job, in a very professional yet competitive environment. There were also internal training courses that helped with the basic and specialized skill set.

While all of this required a lot of work hours, the ability to interact with a wide range of professionals within the firm, as well as meet impressive clients, helped me get deals done and increased my own confidence. I also think that I benefited from working with talented bosses who set the bars just high enough to get things done, while giving me a chance to prove myself.

A Deep Bench

By practicing the "deep-bench" principle with a number of my younger team members as my bosses did with me, I was able to give them opportunities of their own. Perhaps one measure of success is that the people in my investment banking team about seven or eight years ago are now the country heads of other Philippine global investment banks.

The deep bench and the institutionalization of processes have made Citi less dependent on any single personality. Citi's one of the few companies that lets leading it to the last decade or so, but the fact that change within the organization is constant demonstrates the institution's ability to reinvent itself given changing landscapes.

Eugene Acevedo
President and CEO
Philippine National Bank

"The culture of meritocracy gave young probinsiyanos like me – someone without connections – a chance to succeed."

Before I left Citi some this year-three days short of my 23rd year as a Citizen—I was Country Treasurer for Hong Kong and Macau, Global Markets Head for Hong Kong and Taiwan, and Chairman of the Global Markets Asia Recruitment Committee. I had been holding those positions since 2004.

Exciting Job Opportunities

I joined Citi as an Executive Trainee in 1981. I mainly because I was fascinated with the treasury folks whom I'd met, and I thought being Country Treasurer of Citibank was the most exciting position which I should aim for. Of course, Citi recruiters made a huge sales pitch about Citibank's ending up as the best in the banking industry. The culture of meritocracy gave young probinsiyanos like me someone without connections a chance to succeed.

I learned banking at Union Citi. But most importantly, Citi gave me the chance early on to prove myself, make mistakes, and be a better professional. Apart from formal classroom training, I had the opportunity to travel widely as an auditor. Later on, for almost nine years, I was a financial markets professional looking increasingly more senior roles. I had the chance to cover Asia as the Regional Head of Structured Products, and later, as Global Markets Head of the Hong Kong and Taiwan cluster.

Recruiting Talents

In my last decade at Citi, I became a part-time recruiter and talent manager. This role was later formalized when I became the Chair of the Recruitment Committee for the Global Markets Asia business. Going all over the world, meeting and recruiting intelligent people, I developed into quite a good recruiter. I will remember the young ones I took care of long after I retired about the large deals or trades I made.

The Bank that... continued from page 1

Banker to Governments, other Banks

Citi's GTS serves four market segments. Most corporations such as telecommunications companies, utilities, manufacturing multinationals whose head office is made in Europe, US, Japan, the public sector and financial institutions.

"We take pride in being one of the biggest bankers to the government, including their corporations like NAPOCOR, and their departments, such as the Department of Finance, Central Bank, and Bureau of Treasury," relates Ochoa. This was, coupled with Citi's century-long presence in the country, has earned it a significant piece of a critical pathway to nation-building.

And when we talk of financial institutions—insurance companies or investors, and the bank-to-bank has this to say. "Our competitors in credit cards and retail banking are our customers on the consumer side." This means that while Citi competes with them on the consumer side for the lenders' market, their bankers capabilities outside the country make them turn to Citi for their banking transactions.

Industry Firsts

Aside from enjoying market leadership, Citi is also the first to implement a number of financial solutions for corporates in the Philippines. In 1993, Citi launched PayLink, a pioneering automated payments service called PayLink—a complete cash management solution that is convenient, fast, and reliable. Disbursements to suppliers, vendors, and other companies are made through the PayLink system, where payment instructions, beneficiary information, and authorization are also included. Payment information can then be accessed via Citi's online facility.

Citi is also credited with pioneering many solutions like PayLink Connect, launched in 1996. SpeedCollect is a convenient way to collect from customers, and an efficient method of managing a corporate's accounts receivables. This was a welcome move, considering that the Philippine market continues to rely heavily on cash and checks as the principal mode of settlement.

Yanet Ituhan
Citi Philippines Head of Corporate Banking

Ituhan also cites the local U.S. dollar settlement bank role of Citi as one of the industry's firsts. The Philippine Domestic Dollar Transfer System (PDDTS) enables real time transfer of dollars online in real time. "You can settle in dollars much quicker than in pesos. In peso settlements, you will have to bring cash or a check, which will take three days to clear. Dollar settlements can be done instantly, electronically. The same second that you authorize it on the system, it's already credited to the next bank," explains Ituhan.

Citi Powers Corporates and the Country

"We are not just banking the corporate market; we are also part of the financial infrastructure," says Ituhan. Some examples of "facts" while in the Philippines, most foreign and local banks offer the same services, how they manage it, and whether they develop products that go beyond the basics, make the difference.

"Being a global company, we can take a hundred, or maybe 1000 times the volume of other financial companies. Even more important, we replicate these services all over the world," Ituhan says.

Citi has kept its unmatched reputation by developing and continuously developing new, value-for-money solutions for corporates, by creatively process capabilities, and advanced technology will surely enable it to keep its top spot in the market, and bring the country's financial infrastructure to greater heights.

Building a nation, one house at a time.

Belief in Filipinos brings Citi and Gawad Kalinga together.

A better life for underprivileged Filipinos. An end to poverty. Dignity, honor and hope for those in need. These common aspirations support Citi and Gawad Kalinga (GK) together more than six years ago to partner in building homes for the landless, and improving the lives of our countrymen.

Sir, to the erstwhile of Tony Meloto, who adopted his belief that the Philippines should remain a third world country. "[But] when we are very rich in natural resources, our land is very fertile, and our people are talented, creative, caring, hardworking, there is no reason why we should be poor," Meloto shares.

Partnering with Citi

Citi has been one of GK's most valuable partners since 2004, having built almost 200 houses in Citi Villages in Parañaque and Quezon City, and supporting schools in the same areas with programs for health and education.

At that time, Meloto recalls, GK was expanding its care partnership with corporations. "Citi was one of the first to find value in our mission, to recognize the value of community-building as a very concrete and sustainable expression of corporate responsibility," Meloto says.

Indeed, community-building has always been a priority for Citi. "We've the desire to help create relevant and responsible communities. It seemed only natural for us to support the same ideals that GK believed in," shares Liridanth Fajardo, Citi Corporate Affairs Director.

Going beyond check book philanthropy, Citi also encouraged its employees to become volunteers.

Meloto recalls: "What was amazing to me was that Citi really took it on. They would have fund-raising activities on the part of their employees just to be able to support their partnership with GK."

In fact, Fajardo shares, "Our GK projects have drawn the most interest and involvement from Citi employees, as well as from their families and friends." More recently, our Collections team organized a benefit dinner concert and an P1,000 per plate raised enough funds to donate brand new armchairs and chairs for two CSI-funded GK-built schools in Mangaghan, Pangasinan."

Citi's Powerful Presence

Adding to the strong presence of Citi employees at GK volunteer activities, it is also Citi's current Country Head Sanjiv Vohra, whom Meloto cites as a big enthusiast to GK. "He's a good human being that, to me, represents the face of business that wants to build a better world. He personally believes in the dream of Filipinos to have a better life, and supports all the activities of his employees with GK. He personally goes to our build requests, and brings his family. Even classmates of his daughter would take on GK as part of their study," says Meloto.

Vohra, with his family in tow, led the groundbreaking for the Citi-GK Village in Manalo in Parañaque City.

In November last year, the bank's Asia Pacific CEO Shridhir Apte, while in town, took time to perform community service at the Citi-GK Manalo Green Village, painting one block of townhouses with white base coating. After the activity, Apte joined residents in a school program acknowledging Citi's donations and happily delayed the housewives who offered boiled bananas for snacks.

What Citi has given to GK is "a big encouragement, that very basic execution would really take time to absorb the dreams of ordinary Filipinos," Meloto says. Proof that if people work together, we can really build a nation we can all be proud of.

Leading Credibility

Meloto admits that banking can be perceived to be a cold business, focusing on financial transactions. But "Citi put a very warm heart, a happy face to it." Citibankers are not just content up in their offices, but they are sweating it out and mingling with those who are in extreme need. "It affirms the that we will reach our goal of ending poverty in this country: that even corporations will transcend business rivalry because they believe in GK as a transcendent cause," Meloto says.

But beyond its contributions of time and resources, Citi has given GK something more valuable and subtle. "Citi as a corporate partner lends their own credibility as a banking institution to the work of ordinary citizens for the poor, who are not even their clients," says the GK founder.

"When credible institutions like Citi co-create with us, that helps us to also gain the trust of others," Meloto adds. After all, this is what development is all about: stability, credibility and the message of sustainability. "It's not just a little project here or a little program there. It is a massive movement that will attract more volunteers, partners, more trust and resources, because groups like Citi are part of the GK family," adds Meloto.

The Road Ahead

This year, Citi is looking at a new collaboration with GK through GK Bayanihan. The program seeks to create a model GK community that will put food on the table but helps by teaching them commercial farming. Targeting a community of 50 families, commercial farming will focus on organic production of high value crops like corn or oils. The community will then be linked to a company that needs corn as its raw material. Basic entrepreneurship classes will also be incorporated in the training module.

"Citi's next goal in partnering with GK is the economic empowerment of the less privileged. We are now helping GK communities graduate from just having food on the table to creating new sources of livelihood and income for the families," adds Fajardo.

In all these, GK does not consider Citi a donor, but as part of family. "Citi is part of the entity that will create wealth in this country; that will bring peace and prosperity. And this will also be good for business. By working together, creating shared value, working for the common good, what they have actually given Filipinos is not just a house, but dignity, honor, dreams, hope, and aspirations," Meloto concludes.

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Kitchen Confidential

Florabel Co, 36, Chef Patron

At 8 a.m. every day, Chef Florabel Co's work begins by calling all her restaurant outlets. "I'm super hands-on. I go to the supermarket to check new ingredients, and I also do price checks," she adds. With a total of eight restaurants here in Manila and in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, under her management, Florabel admits that she is very meticulous and customer-oriented. "Even if we have a standard catering menu, I make sure that we personalize it according to client's preference."

It comes as no surprise then that Florabel is just as particular when it comes to teaming up with business partners including financial institutions, both as a consumer and as an entrepreneur. A perfect example: Florabel's restaurants like Felix and Crisostomo are currently part of the Citibank Dining Privileges program, where Citi cardholders are treated to an irresistible spread of dine-for-free specials, consultimonthly treats, and other special offers.

Soon after she learned of Citi's latest campaign, Florabel readily signed up "because I believe in the product after all. It's the most accepted credit card worldwide," shares Florabel. The program, which will run until June 2010, is getting good reviews from the restaurants' customers. "They are very happy because aside from earning points, they also get extra freebies like an appetizer." Citibank Dining Privileges is certainly a winning proposition for both the client and the restaurant owner—all thanks to Citi.

Florabel herself is a Citi cardholder, and here she describes the lengths Citi has gone to provide quality service for customers like her. "When I'm out of the country, I can't always keep track of my credit card expenses, right? Citi would advise my credit limit when I come home (that's when they would notify me. They're just considerate like that," she says. This comes in very handy especially when Florabel is on her way home, and needs to make last-minute purchases.

"Having a Citi credit card also gives you a sense of security, especially during emergencies. One of my staff used it for the hospitalization of her mom and she was grateful for not having to worry about being able to cover the entire expense," Florabel shares. As we speak, she is thinking of giving her youngest brother, a college student, a Citi card of his own. "With my Citi card, I know I can buy anything I want. I like having that financial independence, and it's quite a boost for my morale." What a wonderful bonus, don't you think?

A Knack for Numbers

Jody Jacinto, 30, Stock Broker and Triathlete

Numbers are what keep Jody Jacinto's blood pumping. He is, by profession, a stock broker. "I get to work at 8:30 a.m., trade the Philippine market in the morning, and the Hong Kong market in the afternoon," Jody shares. After clocking in his eight hours, Jody proceeds to athlete training. "I rotate swimming, biking, and running almost every day." Here, he trades his average speeds—dealing with numbers yet again.

His knack for numbers can be traced back to ten years ago, when, as a young professional, he learned lessons in financial responsibility from his own father. "My dad gave me an extension of his Citi card, then I eventually got my own as his card user," Jody recalls. "I've never had any problem with my Citi card, and they always went to offer just the kind of service I need" and this is why to this day, Jody still uses it.

"Of course, as a stock broker, I try to make very wise financial choices," he explains. True enough, his Citi credit card was one smart pick. "I receive calls regarding promotions, and I appreciate how what's being communicated to me are relevant to my lifestyle. It's like they already thought it through."

And because work and training take up much of his time ("Sometimes I have to go out of town to train or to compete"), Citi Mobile is one service he really appreciates. "I use it to check my available balance, even buy flowers on occasions, and to make sure I pay my bills on time," Jody says. As if these, the busy triathlete-stock broker can do with just one text message.

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Chalk it up to Luck

Sheri Fuertes, 28, IT Consultant

Imagine winning a free trip abroad, including accommodations and pocket money, and a chance to watch a big football match. Wouldn't that be great if it happened to you?

Sheri Fuertes didn't have to imagine it. Early this year, she filled up the tank of a credit card ride and dropped it off at Citibank in Ayala Alabang. "But I claimed that win already right from the start," she insists. And win, she did. In April, she and her boyfriend went on a four-day trip to Cape Town, South Africa, with a thousand US dollars for pocket money, and two tickets to a FIFA match.

"It was our first time in South Africa, but it was even more exciting because it's free. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," shares Sheri, who obviously loves to travel. The highlight of the trip was the match between Spain and Portugal, which they watched from the VIP box, no less.

The couple took in the sights at Cape Town, and of course, went shopping as well. "We were also given a debit card worth US$1,000 on top of our pocket money!" Sheri used her Gold Citi card, which she claims saved the day when she ran out of cash in the local currency.

Aside from winning this fabulous trip, there are more reasons why Sheri has kept her Citi card for the past five years. "It has always been reliable. My job takes me to offsite vacation, and one time my corporate credit card failed, I was able to use my Citi card. I also got my mom a supplementary card so that even when I'm not here, she can use it for emergencies," Sheri concludes.

She Means Business

Charmaine Chua, 31, Entrepreneur

When Charmaine Chua got married early this year, one of the responsibilities she had to deal with was paying bills. Managing multiple businesses involving manufacturing, IBM finance, and real estate, she is used to having people do these things for her. "But I stayed in the U.S. for two years, and I did everything myself there online," she explains. Imagine Charmaine's relief when she opened a citi dollar checking account with Citibank, and discovered that she could do online banking here as well.

More than 10 years ago, she chose to bank with Citi in Makati. "I chose Citi because of the convenience of being able to access my money from All My 20 over the world," describes Charmaine. And since she loves to travel, Che makes finds herself having to do that often. She doesn't like bringing a lot of cash, for one. Plus, in a trip to Europe some five years ago, "I ran out of Euros while shopping in Chanel, Etcetera, and I was able to withdraw from my Citi account in the local currency."

Recently, Charmaine applied for a Citi PremierMiles card, which also serves as the newly married couple's joint account. "Since I love travelling, I wanted a card that can help me achieve my desired trips easier," she claims. With Citi PremierMiles, Charmaine can choose to redeem more than one frequent flyer programs. "I want to go over-yonders with my five miles! Europe, US, South Africa, China!"

The young entrepreneur is currently expanding her business, and couldn't be more excited. She ends with a wise tip for those who are looking for the right institution to bank with: "Take into account what services they can offer you, and whether these suit your lifestyle. That's the way I see with Citi PremierMiles—like the card was designed for me, and for my personal needs. There's the free access to a well-appointed traveller's lounge, free travel insurance, plus air miles that never expire!"

A Strong Partnership

Mike Cacnio, 40, Artist and Tess Cacnio, 39, Entrepreneur

In 2000, the Cacnios began a Citigold relationship with Citi. The couple immediately felt the difference, from the highly professional Relationship Manager to the personalized attention to their needs, to the comprehensive set of financial products and services they could access. Very quickly, the Citigold relationship grew from a savings account to cover a range of investment products to credit cards for the couple.

"They say the best measure of your satisfaction is when you start recommending your experience to friends and family, and that's just what we did. Pretty soon, my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law also became clients," recalls Tess.

Mike relates that their decision to bank with Citi was a "Flight to quality. That time, most of our funds were just with one local bank, but when rumors regarding its liquidity problems started circulating, we looked around for a new bank and Citi became a natural choice."

The couple travels frequently for business, and as a result, have many opportunities to sample the rewards of a Citi relationship. "No matter what airline we are using, or what class of ticket we have, we can lounge at Delta Sky Club™ at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 in Manila for free. Plus it's so easy to manage your accounts—you can transact over the phone, or Internet, now even using text message," Mike says.

Tess adds, "We can go anywhere and be assured that we can connect to Citi. We don't even feel at a loss, and feel that we won't be able to reach someone, or that our Citigold card or Citi Platinum card won't be honored. The global recognition is impressive."

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BUSINESS Monday

Bulacan entrepreneur taps inmates to promote buntal hat

Taken away from her family at 7, businesswoman moved up and joined employer's venture

Text and Photos
By Carmela Reyes-Barrope
Inquirer Central Luzon

BALIUAG, BULACAN—Rosario Quinet Deyeso, a former maid who has become the leading entrepreneur by keeping the Baliuag buntal hat industry alive, wants to bring the handicraft business to greater heights by conquering the international market.

Deyeso, however, does not want to forget her humble roots and wants to tap the less fortunate in her drive to revive buntal hat weaving and vendor-ville town.

She believes inmates can help her achieve her dream by training them to weaving and as the main clue, giving them livelihood opportunities.

Deyeso, 56, the tourism officer of this town, was recently cited as grand winner in the category which was named in the town by an entrepreneur from Quezon province in the late 1950s, had declined due to the shortage of weavers as people increased to learn the craft.

ROSIE Deyeso with her sample buntal hats

ceive Talk 'N' Text Opol Isaiah Ideal Search for her hard work and perseverance.

"Hindi lang sa kahalagan sa pera, promotion in ng buntal hat ng Baliuag at ng Inang Bulacan. (This will not only provide livelihood to prisoners but will promote the buntal hat of Baliuag and Bulacan)," she says.

She says prisoners can make their time productive by earning through buntal hat weaving. One can earn P100 for every hat woven.

Deyeso, 47, the employee said research for her hard work and perseverance.

She says she cannot meet the demand from customers abroad. While orders pour in for the 150 (P6600) Belarus-made buntal hat, she says her factory lacks weavers.

Deyeso exports the hats to the United States and Australia. Her products are also in local shopping malls for P600 to P1,200 apiece.

The Baliuag buntal hat industry which was started in the 1920s employs 500 weavers who can produce 1,000 hats a month. Deyeso

Editor Thelma Simon San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Silent film on Louis Armstrong premiered, with Marsalis, Licad doing accompaniment

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

CIRCA: Licad provides live music to the film "Louis" in New York.

"LOUIS," A SILENT film on the life and times of jazz icon Louis Armstrong and directed by Dan Pritzker, got positive notices after its world premiere in Chicago last Aug. 21 and its subsequent screenings in Detroit, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and New York.

One of the big come-ons of the film is that the live music was provided by noted jazz musicians Wynton Marsalis and Jon Batiste ensemble and piano ace Cecile Licad.

Chicago Tribune art critic Howard Reich wrote that Pritzker and Oscar-winning cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond "have created an inspiring if fanciful—cinematheque on Armstrong [Armstrong] early life.

"In their credit," cues Reich's review on the film, "the filmmakers quickly persuade the audience to forget that we live in the linear world of 'frame' and 'reception.' Suddenly, we're absorbed in the story of Armstrong who never dust lips but do not speak, their facial gestures and body language elsewhere becoming all the more potent. And the musical score, which typically serves as backdrop to motion-picture drama, itself becomes a character in the drama of 'Louis,' swelling up in love scenes, stirring hurt in chase sequences. In 'Louis,' the pleasures of connecting pair up with the semitechnicians of sounding a storyline developed on screen, and both benefit."

'Excellent'

The New York Times, after the film's screening at Apollo Theater, wrote: "Entirely on its musical merits, this lilted tribute to Armstrong is extraordinary. Mr. Marsalis runs in his schoolhouse, playing the trumpet with a 16-piece band whose members were mostly drafted from the ranks of his Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. They addressed a generous range of his works, as composer and soloist, along with documents by Armstrong, Duke Ellington and a few others. And they shared the stage with Cecile Licad, a classical pianist who delved, authoritatively into period pieces by the Creole composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. The playing and sound of the score were often stunningly even absolutely evident, and the evocations, conducted by Andy Farber, let

SEE PAGE C2

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'Orosman at Zafira' is rousing and—who knew?—fun

The next step for Dulaang UP is to find a producer or apply for grants to push the production to its next logical and higher level

By Walter Ang
Contributor

BRILLIANTLY DIRECTED and choreographed by Denoy Navarro, Dulaang UP's "Orosman at Zafira" (which closed two weekends ago) was an exhilarating show that made Voltaire, or Baltasar's Asmodeo not just accessible to contemporary audiences but also engaging and fun.

This particular theater form—not to be mistaken as comedy (the Tagalog term *komedya* is derived from comedia, a Spanish generic term for drama)—was brought over by colonizers as an evangelizing tool. It usually had plots about valor or warring kingdoms, and used singing conventions like structured choreographed movements and rants.

This production was definitely not your great-grandparents' *komedya*.

Sound and movement

Santos clearly directed the piece with an audience in mind, ordering staging devices that successfully resolved both the stagecraft and theater's work for today's sensibilities. With his artistic collaborators, Santos executed this epic story with stylized movement

OROSMAN AT ZAFIRA | C2

Metro Aide woman mimics dancing cop for points

A 41-year old female Metro Aide was seen dancing in the Kamuning/EDSA intersection, Tuesday. According to bystanders, the street sweeper surprised commuters and pedestrians when she started to mimic the dancing cop. When interviewed, the woman admitted that a co-worker promised her 1,500 Globe points if she dared to dance in public. She added that she wanted the points so she can get a free phone from My Rewards. My Globe.

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You can also call 730-1000 or visit www.globe.com.ph/rewards to find out more details.

So if you do the Running Man or Rogey Rabbit in public, maybe someone will also give you more points.

Silent film...

From page C1

every mark."

Present in the New York screening were violinist Nadja Sonnenberg and pianist Ken Noda, who also worths at the Metropolitan Opera.

At the Kennedy Theater in Pennsylvania, the film got a rare review with even more adulation for the musicians.

Wrote local jazz critic Wade Liggett: "It, in a sense, tonight's performance was almost free more limited Lenin, both of whom had a profound impact on Ayanbe music. Lizad superbly played the Gottschalk scores with feeling and emotion that left the audience speechless more in beauty and the realization of Gottschalk's influence on early jazz as the new musical forms were played on the same stage."

Landscape of American music

Debuting director Pilcher said it was his admiration for Armstrong and his music that inspired him to produce and direct the film.

The music of Louis Moreau Gottschalk is considered again part of American music.

"To me," Pilcher said, "there's a direct line from Gottschalk to Scott Joplin to Morton, to contemporary to a landscape of American music."

The filmmaker said he considered Lizad the best Gottschalk interpreter and more attractive than most to dynamic encounters.

"It's very upbeat and fun," Lizad said of Gottschalk's music, which she had played as encore pieces to her recent Manila concerts. "The way the rhythm flows, it has a certain swing to it."

The film is described as a homage to Louis Armstrong, Charlie Chaplin, "Sensational seasons and the birth of American music."

"The grand theatrelle melodies, alloys and contrasts of 1907 New Orleans provide a backdrop of fun, blend and magic for 6-year-old Louis played by Anthony Coleman," according to production notes.

Noah of the Chicago Tribune admitted that one question that hovered over the film was: Is it possible...or even wonderful...to produce a silent movie in the 21st century?

The critic said the answer—judging by what he considered as a remarkably polished first performance—was a resounding "yes."

Pilcher is a 38-year-old songwriter and guitarist for the soul-rock band Sonic Dada and has appeared on Bobo' list of the 400 Richest musicians—No. 236, as of 2009. He helms the late Jay Pritzker, founder of the Hyatt Hotels.

Silent-film background

By coincidence, Lizad's great uncle, the composer Francisco Buencamino, made a living as a silent-film accompanist.

"My mother was very close to him," Lizad recalled, "when I was a kid and working on music, my mother used to act things out, and so I always related music to acting, to telling a story somehow."

Lizad has toiled show-biz circumstance, starring with award-winning filmmaker Mike de Leon (her cousin), music-anointed films scores Mommy Dearest (1996) and actor Nonie Buencamino (her cousin).

Lizad's maternal grandfather—Buencamino Buencamino—worked in the administrative section of EDSA Shrines while her mother's sister was finance person to the same shrine.

"Soy many years before my marriage," said Lizad's mother Rosario, "we lived in the 50's compound and my family were close to the famous man of that time."

'Orosman at Zafira'...

From page C1

ment, evocative choreography and a distinctly Filipino score.

Un dramaturge enlisted the original text, changed Voltaire's original Turkish kingdoms to Filipino tribes, and created a narrative that underscores alluring.

Carol Bello, former member of world-music group Pinikpikan, composed original music that was catchy, textured, haunting and immensely rousing. While the music of a traditional drama, she was performed by a live orchestra using indigenous instruments such as gamba drums, kulintang (gong chimes) and balong (Jew's harp), together with electric guitars and keyboards.

Lamco replaced the traditional marches with movements to celebrations inspired by the country's regional dances. He marked the narrative with three impressive battle scenes that showcased a heady amalgamation of fight stances and dance. The men charged, pounced and attacked as they twisted, glided and leapt.

He delivered a coup de grace in the last battle scene by making his star cast use musical instruments as weapons, an all-out sound and action machine.

It's complicated

Beyond the spectacle of the battle scenes, Lamco's theme system—dated Batman's cartoonish work—to audiences. The work on users like a handful, with characters who court, scheme, kill, avenge, piss and do love stuff that interpret producers would love and audiences would have no problem relating to.

Love in a time of war is daunting, furious and Bello seemed on set. The music for the battle sequences were loud and fast, while the love duets were all festive, angry or grief-ridden. Bello also knew her character's ballet was chats in the second act.

Boys and girls

In "Florante at Laura," Balthazar's more known words (since it's required reading in high school), the male protagonist (Florante) gets tied to a tree and wails quite a while to get saved while the female characters (Laura and Flerida) have to do a lot of work.

There are plot points that Balthazar expects here. Omnipotent with up shackled and Zafira has to come save him, among other things, while also avenging her father's assassination, dealing with the revelation that her beloved is the son of the enemy and fighting a romantic turned of her tribe.

The astonishing actors who played Dramaturge didn't have much to do, really, but pop-in-stage occasionally, show off comic pace and abs, declare love for Zafira, and then vow his love to save him.

It was more fun watching Zafira, played with wonderful aplomb by Delphine Buencamino. Her expressive face infused the character with depth and spunk. She did her part-time theatre stalwarts Nonie and Shamaine Buencamino, proud.

Jacinto Stemilla provided Buencamino steady support as Gulnara, the confidante of Zafira's father who would battle side by side with the bloodier Catanyang was a unsung Stemilla (the scourge of Zafira's tribe).

All eyes, however, were on Ibrahim Ly with his intense and unwavering turn as Orosman's villainous brother Abdulaz. Ly's scenes with Buencamino erupted with the most impact, emotion, and strangely-enough, chemistry.

Scope and scale

At the end of the day, most such choreography were the delivering characteristics of this show. They carried me through the narrative, and functioned as a convenient storytelling device that allowed audiences who didn't have a grasp of archaic lingoing to stay interested in the goings on.

Elsewhere, the "Alfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater underserved the material's epic scope with its small scale. Entrances were clipped and jerks were truncated. You half-expected the cast to run into trade order volunteers that they were in the wings.

His doubt the proximity of the dancer to each other in such a small space added heft to their pieces. Still, one could imagine Lamco' choreography and blocking truly blossoming, if only he were given an appropriate, bigger platform.

The arranging was proof that the show could sell, to the next step for Dulaang UP is to find a producer or apply for grants to

CHRONICLES EXTRA, C3

New Ballet Philippines season has a glorious start

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

BALLET PHILIPPINES (BP) 41st gala season opening-night as it opened the season with a modern tribute to its former ballerinastar Wilhelmina Morgan. In the Cultural Center of the Philippines lobby, former students greeted the many who were members of BP, whose membership had raised the dancing standards in the country and influenced the baby boomer generation of students.

After 14 years of absence, Morgan, now based in Thailand, gave three weeks teaching the techniques of the company.

BP wisely edited "Les Sylphides" to "Despinosa" in contrast to the changing moods of Chopin's music. Standout of the just dancing with his sylphs. Although it lacked the atmosphere and the poetry a Romantic ballet, the staging presented a very scenic and well-rehearsed corps de ballet...all dressed with strong hair—and solid performances from its soloists.

Carmen Adea was the highlight as she brought real like elegance to her solo and a sense of otherworldliness to the pas de deux. Katherine Trebet's captivating quality went with the title and flow of the waltz. Madge Reyes' expansiveness and delicacy suited her in the Mazurka solo. Abigail Gabriel performed what he did best, the ever-reliable partner.

Inspiring elevation

Although visibly nervous, Cyril Pahlke impressed the audience with his elevation and beautiful, petite pulling out in space and the way he captured the Oriental spirit in "Dejaki" variation.

Caroline Adea and Jean Blen Cordero brought the house down with their fast pirouettes in the virtuosic "Dance and Acteur" and Victor Ursabia's lyrical "Sapin Sapin." Although he may not ordinarily strong classical lines, Cordero seemed the crowd his genius during limitless execution, glowing enthusiasm of the performing of Arteos and his magical sleight of hand in pantomime. The audience clapped as he smoothly swept his partner up into a one-hand overhead lift.

As Dinna, Caroline Adea exuded a charismatic regality not Full of electrifying dynamism. She made extremely difficult steps look so easy while simultaneously seducing the audiences with her expressive face.

In "Napie-Napie," a layered contemporary piece with five precisely Adea and Cordero danced with big sweeps and powerful attack, whirling with panic every movement.

Pahlke's "Dancer's Cool" was a clever intermission number done at the lobby. It depicted three dancers coming to a ballet class, forming a ballet barre and breaking out to do their leaps in jumps and runs. Philip Abcarian, Cris Guillermo and Raul Aiza strada shot the senses through the technical demands of the piece, yet imbued their dancing with youthful exuberance.

Magic of theater

President choreographer Alden Lagonoy is known for using the magic of theater in the ballet. "Burgundofil," a former tale of an affair—indeed who becomes a village sacrifice, is the works—back projection of images, rolling drapes, flow of veil, doors flooding across the stage, and characters magically appearing and disappearing. Although the cast didn't come through as sacrificial actors, they still managed to convey the story. The choreography displayed the astonishing physical fluidity of Carmen Adea in the title role.

Nicolas Escaño paid tribute to George Balanchine in his version of "Symphony in C." It attempted to show Balanchine's signature high-energy classicism and rocking—all feminine curve, but it seemed too anti-climactic. Still, the corps de ballet and soloists danced with clarity and elegance.

The surprise of the evening was the premiere of "Shifting Wind" by Carlo Orcullo of the Hong Kong Ballet. Aside from Bello technique and artistry, he is very intelligent and imaginative when her character's ballet was

Katherine Trebet and Angel Gabriel in Carlo Perez' "Shifting Wind" | Photo by Ramon Orlina

"Shifting Wind" was originally his master's thesis in Hong Kong, inspired by the translation of Li Kunjiacek and the biography of Catherine de Medici in the era of the corsets. Dancers were corsets with hip straps and would be manipulated by the straps. The intention, however, is part of bodies would be separated by the pulling and pushing of the straps in various directions.

Forces of nature

Applying his thoughts on textile, human, feminine and nature by the specifics of his choreography, Perez showed how the physical forces of nature or the contact between the pushes and pushes brought unexpected results. Perez, a principle of physics, Perez developed a story of two orthopaxy couples—Trebet and Richard Tadiar and Gabriel and Rita Wilbert—who become unfamiliar. Consequently Trebet has a fling with Gabriel.

The physical forces of the pushing and pulling straps also served as a metaphor for the dynamics in a human relationship. Trebet's expressive, voice added oomph to her dramatic role. Wilbert, Gabriel and Tadiar possessed the right partners for portraying fascinating extensions of their partner's movements.

Compared with the older pieces, Perez's new presentation may have lacked the dominant dance style (except for some soloists) and the lyrical edge of modern dance. Their style seems more like a cross pollination of ballet and free movements infused with cadences of energy. Some are such handsome modern dancers as Norman Wallace and Agnes Locsin. Nonetheless, they've got an overwhelming physical drive, high artistic intelligence and are technically stronger, thanks to their teachers who were graduates of Mrs. Morgan. They should be appreciated in more ballets.

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AMERICAN EXPRESS Cardmembers may enjoy savings of 20 percent for ticket to performances of the Ballet Philippines' Season 15 from October 2011 up to February 2011 through TicketWorld or Ballet Philippines' offices. Three ballets "Coppelia," "Dance" international show and which runs from Oct. 15-17, "Peter Pan" from Dec. 2-3 and 10-11; and "Don Quixote" from Feb. 10, 20, 2011. All performances are at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Cardmembers may choose to buy their tickets through the American Express Concierge. Upon request, the Concierge will deliver the tickets to their Cardmembers.

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Millado directs Aguila's human-rights dramas

SINGWIKISI THEATER artist Chris Millado directs two works by award-winning playwright Jerold M. Aguila.

Human rights dramas "Ang Walang Mukha" and Alkitrans will be staged on Sept. 24-27 (7 p.m. with 3 p.m. shows on the weekend) at the Tanghalang Huseng Batungbakal Theater City Center, UP Diliman. Sherry Lara, Soxy Guzman, Julia Enriquez, and Paolo Rodriguez perform in this production.

"This is the initial offering of the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature's Tanghal Lilim (Image Works), a program which produces for the stage the plays, poems, fiction, and other creative works by students and faculty members," said Dr. Jonjonnel Nanud, the department chair.

Aguila received the lifetime achievement award Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas for his playwriting by the Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Union of Writers in the Philippines).

Dulaang Lilim (Image Works), a program which produces for the stage the plays, poems, fiction, and other creative works by students and faculty members," said Dr. Jonjonnel Nanud, the department chair.

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Anton Juan directs "Information for Foreigners"

IN CELEBRATION of its centennial year, the Department of English and Comparative Literature of the University of the Philippines-Diliman is staging Eduardo Gutiérrez's "Information for Foreigners," directed by the internationally renowned Dr. Anton Juan, Jr.

Gutiérrez Gutiérrez is one of the most distinguished writers of contemporary Argentina. The play "Information for Foreigners" uses the participatory element of interactive theater to depict a world totally slipped from its moorings, in which murder, torture and coercion are considered the norm of everyday life. The play enables its audience to interact with the performances as it adopts the role of a "tourist" in a cauldron of mystery and the macabre.

The play features actors Jim Lemongan, Gleb Nieto, Peter Serrano, Carlo Paolo Cuenca, Shaie del Rosario, Ike Valera, Raul Aiko Prado and former ambassador Alvena Yambao, among others, along with student participants of a series of theater workshops conducted by Juan.

Juan's artistic direction and dramaturgy by Ma. Ribera, sound design by Arthur Joaquin, technical direction by Gilda Lizaso, lighting design by Mellion Reyna and costume design by Lloyd Miranda.

The play runs September 20-25, 2011, 7 p.m. at the College of Arts and Letters Building, UP Diliman.

For details and inquiries, call Karen 0917-314-1454 or the UPCL office 920-3950.

Cine Europa running at Shang

THE 13TH ANNUAL Cine Europa is running until Sept. 19 at the Shang Cineplex Cinema 2.

This year's featured films include: Austria and Germany's "Der Knochen" (The Soldier), the story of multi-talented Johann Bertenberger, a successful stuntman-racecar and serial bank robber who meticulously measures his heart rate, stamina and efficiency during intense car and bank raids.

Belgium's "De Kus" (The Kiss) is a thriller revolving around the beautiful and gifted 15-year-old Sara, who dreams of running away from home and becoming a professional ballet dancer, but fails for the stunning Vic, an extremely dangerous older man.

Based on the best seller by Ilija Trojanow, Bulgaria's "Svetat E Golyam I Spasenie Debne Dimyanakale" (The World of Big and Salvation Lurks around the Corner) centers on Alex, who, with his charismatic grandfather, embarks on a journey in search of his soul until Nihan, literature teacher Josef Hoksun quits his job, he is unable to ponder that in doing so he would lose his sense of place in society.

"Vranar Labut" (Inspire) from the Czech Republic is a love story that demonstrates the formidable moments in life.

In Denmark's "Frygtelig Lykkelig" (Terribly Happy), Robert thinks that taking on the position of village constable is necessary for his rehabilitation, but finds out that nothing is over a straightforward way out in the country.

From Finland, Kimberly Hedelmaa' (Forbidden Fruit) is the story of two teenage girls from a very restrictive Sufi township in the heart of the city in search of freedom.

"El Cielo" from Greece is the epic tale of the star-crossing love and freedom fighter Dimitrios Theotoropoulos, known to the world as El Greco.

France presents two executive films. "Divine Zoo" (Treated Animal) uses the strange tension of Guillaume, his ex-wife Jeale, his current wife Caroline and his rich

"THE KISS" from Belgium

"THE HUNGER" from Austria and Germany

aunt Camilla, which takes a tragic turn when Camilla is found murdered by her God.

In "Tout En Hauteur" (All is Forgotten), a father leaves his family after failing to get himself together. Eleven years later his daughter decides to see him again.

From Italy come "Mio Fratello E Figlio Unico" (My Brother is an Only Child) and "I Baci Spezzi" (Broken Unknown). The former focuses on the lives of Accio and Rhoccio, brothers who are always at odds with each other. The latter

reawakened among the masterpieces of Italian cinema, revolves around the adventures of five small-time thieves preparing for a heist that weather a disastrous and unsuccessful end.

In Slovakia's offering, "Nikaj V Dad" (Dad at Peace), Tono returns to his home village from lumber-thieving to seek a new way of life.

Netherlands' "Hemelhaarstil" is the tale of a stubborn outsider and hairdressing girl who watches with mixed feelings as her family finds her new boyfriend in an old van in love.

"De Schreeuwgenot Van Bretelaer" (Strom Breed) sees three boys embark on their first voyage across the ocean and find themselves shipwrecked on a tropical island.

Sweden's "Svarta Nejlikor" (The Black Pimpernel) is based on the life of Harald Edelstam, the Swedish ambassador to Chile during the junta's rule.

Switzerland will enjoy Romansh cinematic strength via "Pia Interrupteur" (Philosophy), about a 35-year-old school teacher still living with his parents, who becomes encouraged to impress a girl, and Mirera, the great rider who fought against the Turks and other invaders to guard the country's independence.

Set in London in 1861, the United Kingdom's "An Education" presents a brilliant 17-year-old girl whose life mirrors the city caught between the dull portent '50s and the glamorous '60s.

Spain gives film enthusiasts "El Abuelo" (The Grandfather), a story of love, friendship, honor and betrayal within a powerful family spanning three generations; and "Amor La Loca" (Mad Love), the historical drama of Juana de Castile and her ill-fated marriage to Archduke Felipe de Austria.

From Switzerland comes "Vitus" Vitus Mueller," about a village boy's frantic quest for the perfect gift not for the woman he loves but for his father!

For film screening schedules and other inquiries, contact 633.7851 or log on to www.cinegrillo.com.

'Orosman at Zafira'...

From page C2

push the production to its next logical and higher level.

Can't the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the university's sister government institution, lend a helping hand? Tanghalang Ateneo Director Bienvenido Noriel's Julius Caesar Shakespeare's "Cyrano" just wrapped up its run) would be perfect.

Antaong UP will stage Guy Quinsaat "Ebark Bahay Tabu 2," directed by Alexander Cuevas, Sept. 15-Oct. 3. This will be the second production for its 35th season "Retro Engagement Plays That Deserve a Second Look," a series of recognized UP (UP) past popular works. Call 981-8500 local 2449, 926-1349, 433-7680 or 0917-6286224.

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Japan Foundation holds Kurosawa filmfest in 35mm format

THE JAPAN Foundation, Manila, in partnership with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the UP Film Institute, will hold the Kurosawa Film Festival starting Sept. 14 at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines with the grand screening of "Throne of Blood."

The two-week film retrospective on akira Kurosawa is in commemoration of the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary Japanese director.

Regular screenings will be held at the UCP Dream Theater Sept. 15-19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and at the UP Film Institute Sept. 21-25, 1 p.m.-7 p.m.

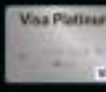
The films will be shown in their original 35mm format.

The festival inaugural on Sept. 14 will also mark the welcome reception for new Japan Foundation Manila director Shuki Takaishi, who will replace Ben Suzuki, whose Manila and the Philippines will miss.

"I leave with a heavy heart," Suzuki wrote Friends of the Japan Foundation. "It gladdens me to let you know that my new assignment would allow me the opportunity to live in close contact with the Philippines and with a lot of Filipinos, whom I have strengthened bonds of friendship with."

Visit www.jfmo.org.ph or call 8116155-56. Admission is free.

love some retail therapy?



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VISA

New resto-bar opens Sept. 14

BISTRO BLANC Restaurant & Wine Bar, a new restaurant specializing in French-Mediterranean cuisine, will open on Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at 2/L, Newport Mall at the Resorts World Manila, Newport, Pasay.

The elegant dining place is another addition to the Chefs' Quarter Group of Restaurants and catering services. The hues for the grand opening celebration are Lacey Period, chef Rhuaro Arjona Jr., Sir Allan O. Tan, Dr. Cardiac E. Molino and patrons.

UPLB Sarmasining's 'Undine'

UPLB SARMASINING, the laboratory arm of the Department of Humanities, in collaboration with the Theater Communication class of this semester, is staging its three U. Ostro' Filipino adaptation of Jean Giraudoux's "Undine," to be directed by Jeremy N. de la Cruz and Borok Bibiano.

The play "Undine" is a classic, archetypal of fairytale, love and betrayal that explores the tension between the real and ideal. Mr. Ecaz, a knight errant, shows up in a fisherman's hut. The old folks' foster wave nymph daughter Undine falls in love with him at first sight, leading to complications.

Composed of faculty and students, UPLB Sarmasining aims to provide alternative venues of education through theatrical presentations, dance and musical concerts, art exhibits, film screenings, creative-writing workshops and other related activities. It also aspires to develop faculty members and students' potential in the literary, visual and performing arts.

For Communication Arts students, Sarmasining is a creative ground where they gain practical and hands-on experiences in various aspects of collaborative artistic work and production management.

The show runs Sept. 22, 7 p.m.; 23-24, 1 and 7 p.m.; 25-26, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., at the IK Umali Hall, UPLB. Tickets are at P200. Call 0906.3162195.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Impressive showcase of autistic art

By Cid Reyes
Contributor

"THERE WASN'T that much else to life he wanted to do. It was just him and the paintings." Thus remarked a studio assistant of the great abstract expressionist Willem de Kooning, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

He, whose paintings were regarded as among the most influential in the past century, was now the subject of a great controversy. When his works, created when he was no longer of "sound mind," of any value?

Famous for his densely activated canvases of bold pigments, his late works were seen described as looking unfinished. A New York art dealer dismissed them: "They looked like underpainting."

A museum curator, however, disagreed. He considered them "among the most beautiful, sensual, and exuberant abstract works by any modern painters."

To this day, controversy continues to hound artworks that were created by artists regarded with "mental incapacitors." Indeed, the euphoriants that silenced nerve cells to confirm the confusion attendant to the disorders "fatal[ly] or gravely challenged" is true, rendering its works of psychotaxis patriotic.

The French painter, Jean Dubuffet, collected the paintings of the psychotic and the insane and called these works Art Brut, meaning "raw art."

Ever on the alert for judgmental labels, Wikipedia quickly but now gives the all-encompassing term Outsider Art.

This transcendency signals that such works are not to be regarded as mainstream art, for are these works merely artistic curiosa?

Recently emerging in the limelight is Antonio Ary.

Homecoming

Diagnosed at age three to be a high-functioning autistic, Ar Tee refused to attain what others with less disability could not. In 2006, he received his Certificate of Fine Arts at St. Scholastica's College. Thereafter emigrating with his family to Canada, Ar Tee

NEW WORKS of Norberto Carating will be on exhibit at Gallery José in Wackkie City Sept. 10-Oct. 16.

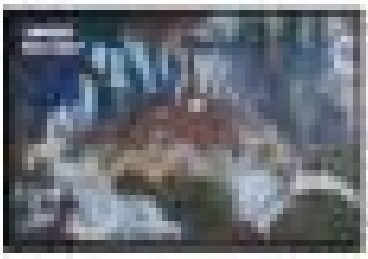
The exhibit is only the second of the gallery since opening last July 27.

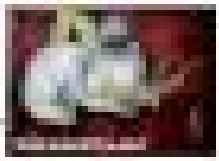
Carating is a product of the UP College of Fine Arts and is well-known for his masterful depiction of the square format with his distinctive technique of achieving textural that is almost proprietary in nature.

He occasionally deviates from that format with diptychs of aesthetic colors and number tones surely to depict both his inner turmoil as well as the world's schizoid behavior. Gazing at his works we participate and empathize with the pleasures and the victimhoods of life.

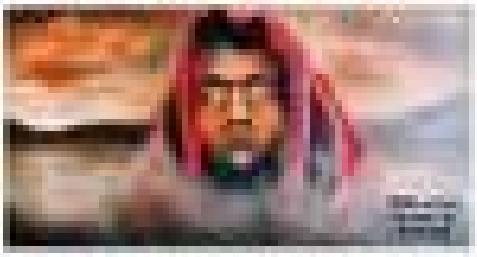
Impressive showcase of autistic art

Sigwala G





allery: Thinking about art



Maggadala ng documents sa USA! ₱1,100 lang!
2GO

Exhibit is sculpture vulture must-see

By Jessica Jaiteh-Rudolfo
Correspondent

THREE-DIMENSIONAL art takes the spotlight in what is perhaps the country's only yearly sculpture exhibit, Gallery Nine's sixth annual "Sculpture Review," ongoing at the Art Center of Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The all-sculpture showcase features pieces by Midsweh Ahsova, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Carlo Antonio, Hal Bonifacio, Michael Cacnio, Alice Cajandabao, Gil Geronimo, Abe Ledesma, Jose Tamayo, Ruffy David, Daniel de la Cruz, Steffi G. Farol, Joe Gruddo, National Artist Abdulmari Imao, Juan Sajid Iman, Pete Jimenez, Jinjoy, Donald Teodoro Ratigbak, Julie Lluch, Maria Magdareti, Jordan Mendoza, Chris Murillo, Ramon Orlina, Cecilio Ortega, Agi Pagkalinawan, Al Perez, Mervy Pueblo, Lirio Salvador, Jimenito Jimarez, Wando Siow, Danny Reyes dei Sol, Kelly Tomas, Aden Sia Juana, Claudio Tayag, Lee Velasco and Jim Vicaldo.

The exhibit is consistent with Gallery Nine's aim to memorialize the artistic progress of Filipino sculptors. The yearly presentation serves as an update of their current themes, several explicit and even risqué.

For instance, this year's lot includes Orlina's deviation from his usual glass to all-metal cast bronze with honey patina, which gallery owner Amy Lorio says the artist makes "only by inspiration" and are thus "few and far between."

The range of media would certainly be a treat to sculpture buffs. Pirate Claude Tayag's curved and curved wooden linear motions of the ocean, to the varying metals of de la Cruz, Garcia, Jimenez and Pueblo, seems to reside by Bonifacio, contemplative mode of weft cyborg by Abejuela, or Magdareti's bleached coral-like bone and Aden Sia Juana's strange mix of plastic and retro coins, among a wide, avant-not mini-collection.

On the invitation to a curator from the first draft of Aga Muhl's "Mr. The Living," which reads:

"I have nothing to tell. But myself. And no one wants that," said Leo Rosalesday. "I might," said Kiko Mojocoro. The would-be art 'pit' his excitement, was slowly. "What to remove our position? Well, what price have you to offer?" (Elvis) raised her face in a ray of light. "Look into my eyes," she said very seriously. "What do you see there?" He bent close to her. "They're beautiful." "There no other mirror to offer you." She asked again. "What do you see there?" "My own reflection." "That's the price I'll offer you."

The lines are reminiscent as a dialogue between sculptor (or any artist for that matter) and viewer, declaring that no less than the artist is embedded by the artwork.

Viewers, it is in the eyes of the appreciative beholder that the sculptures take full form.

Call Gallery Nine at 910-8134, email author at magicday@gmail.com.

"ENTROPY 11," by Claude Tayag

"PARENT and Child," by Ramon Orlina

"ECSTASY" II by Ramon Orlina

"TWITTER," by Pete Jimenez

LIFESTYLE Arts & Books

31st Manila International Book Fair slated Sept. 15-19

By Dexter R. Mardo
Contributor

THE MANILA International Book Fair (MIBF) has, indeed, come a long way from its auspicious beginning at Philsite, where it was held some three decades ago.

The first book fair lasted for one month, something that probably wouldn't be viable anymore today.

"Persuading people to go there was very difficult," said Lyle Sandoval, president of the Book Development Association of the Philippines.

But as recent sightings of the book fair would prove, that, too, has changed. The MIBF has become the meeting ground for book-lovers, writers, publishers, librarians, academicians, simply because of its varied collection of literature, textbooks, religious and inspirational titles, children's books, art books, rare and hard-to-find titles, audio and e-books.

This year's MIBF will be held at the SMX Convention Center, Sept. 15-19. Students can avail of books at lower than bookstore prices, while teachers and school administrators can compare offerings from various exhibitors and get the best prices for bulk purchases.

All-around excellence

The opening day will feature the Gintong Aklat Awards, which recognizes excellence in bookmaking in the Philippine book industry.

Established in 1992, the awards are given out every other year to outstanding book publishers based on the quality of the books. The entries are judged for all-around excellence and subjected to close scrutiny by three professional panels in book manufacture and design, writing and editing.

Youngsters can look forward to storytelling sessions, puppet shows, reading-related contests, robotic demonstrations, and a parade of exhibitors' mascots and cosplayers of their favorite book characters.

Chosen cuts also collet in special seminars and workshops available inside the clock at the hall, while the young and old alike can enjoy mini-concerts or dance-and-groove sessions with well-known and up-and-coming artists.

ADELL

Book of Urian film reviews of the '90s launched Sept. 15

THE URIAN Anthology 1990-1999 will be launched Sept. 15, 5 p.m., at Bulwy Kultirow of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

Edited by Nicanor G. Tiongson and published by the UP Press, with the support of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the book gathers the reviews of Filipino films shown in the '90s by members of Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the 33-year-old society of respected film critics that hands out the annual Gawad Urian awards for excellence in filmmaking.

Aside from reviews by Tiongson and National

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DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN ROBLEDO

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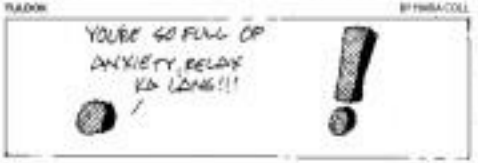

BEN — BY DARREL SHELTON

BIGO MACHINE — BY MARK ARVEN

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HEROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU WERE TODAY Years ago, someone whose name you cannot recall, who was a total pain in the butt, will resurface. Your only response should be non-committal. It's important to not seem overeager. This is the only way you can find out if they've really changed. Don't rush to be with someone you've only just met. Others will not accept you so fully.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You need a genuine smile, especially since you've been a grumpy bear. Don't let anyone tell you what to do. Don't let anyone tell you what to do. You are your future. Speaking up before you with practical "issues".

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a great day to do things with others and this includes efforts at finding a romantic relationship. Assertiveness and flexibility are the keys. People you meet and get involved with could be unconventional.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Relationships with partners are issues and financials today. Talk and exchanges! Your ruler is Mercury, and you're ready to communicate. It's easy to get into conversations that you're not really committed to. Don't be afraid to say "no".

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Trust your big ideas at work. Whatever you suggest probably will fly. Silly comments at the Happy Hour can't succeed within 72 Whichcraft.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) This is a marvelous, fun-loving month for Leos-lovers. Romantic social outings and activities are highlighted. Romance and passion are in the air. Don't be afraid to show your feelings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Family discussions will become important. Be sensitive. People feel frightened. Important people in your life have a lot to say. Don't be afraid to show your feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's easy to be optimistic today. You're ready to take on the world. Your confidence is high. Don't be afraid to show your feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Today is the day to be optimistic. You're ready to take on the world. Your confidence is high. Don't be afraid to show your feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today, the Moon is in your sign, making it a really good day to spread your dreams. You feel optimistic and ready to take on the world. Your confidence is contagious, so you're a perfect match for any occasion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're quietly pleased about something today. You have confidence that things are going to work out the way you want them to. That kind of confidence is hard to find.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Others quickly pick up on your optimism today. You have confidence that things are going to work out the way you want them to. That kind of confidence is hard to find.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You make an excellent impression on others today. Bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs admire you, and they think you're swell! Friends like it's time to demand that all messages to your co-workers be delivered in writing.

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

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5		9			7			
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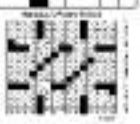
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



31st Manila International Book Fair...

From page E1

ing authors and illustrators.

A seminar on how to get your book published should prove interesting for those who fancy piles of manuscripts stashed away waiting for that one big break. The seminar should enable would-be authors to meet with and talk to publishers.

Other events

Also at the MBF is Edu Shop, a trade fair for school materials, supplies, equipment and textbooks.

Other events include the 5th Red and Green Run 2010 (Sept. 16-17, Function Room 4), which would gather the country's leading employers looking for the best additions to their capable growing teams whether in the entry level or to executive positions.

In Function Rooms 1 and 2 on the same date, members of the audience will gather for Access: The 2nd Philippine English Language Conference.

SuperEdu 2010 (Sept. 17-18, Function Room 3) will showcase consumer and trade products and services in childcare, parenting, education, and other child development needs.

It hopes to equip parents, guardians, educators and adults with the latest in child care and development.

The Best of Animé (Sept. 19, Function Room 3) will feature animé exhibits, gaming, cosplay and concerts while there are sure to be a treat for anime and manga enthusiasts.

MBF runs Sept. 15-19 at SMX Convention Center, Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

MBF is organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc. in partnership with Asian Catholic Communications, Inc., Book Development Association of the Philippines, Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc., and Publishers Representatives Organization of the Philippines.

Gail Bingcang or Bingcang, or e-mail bookfair@primetrade.com.

Manga fans swarm around the SPM Corporation Centre.

'Future of the Book' confab set

THE NATIONAL Book Development Board (NBDB), Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP), Filipinas Heritage Library and Ideal Foundation, Inc. will hold the first-ever digital publishing confluence titled "The Future of the Book."

With theme "Book Publishing in the Global Digital Arena," the conference is set Sept. 13-14 at the UP-Ayala Technohub, Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Various aspects involved in digital publishing—from authoring, editing and lay-outing to distribution and consumption—will be discussed by distinguished names from the international and local publishing industry headed by Lynsey Owen, copyright director of Pearson Education, one of the world's leading textbook publishers.

On Day 1, publishing professionals will tackle the business aspect of digital publishing in the Philippines, while digital publishing as a lucrative business will be discussed to plenary session.

On Day 2, 16 unique works will be discussed simultaneously on digital multimedia: pricing digital products; new reading habits; new distribution models; selling in mobile markets.

There will also be workshops and roundtable discussions on other topics relevant to digital publishing.

Registration fee is P5,000 for Days 1 and 2; or P900 for Day 2 only. Students with ID may avail of the discounted fee of P500. Registration starts at 8 a.m.

Call 4160060 or 0916-2627716; e-mail the.futureofbook@yahoo.com.ph; or visit www.filipinaslibrary.org.

Book of Urian...

From page E1

Artist For Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, the board gathers the reviews and other articles of Cirilo Aviso Aquino, Joel David, Pio G. de Castro IR, Isidro Dacanay Jr., Chabelita del Mundo Jr., Bienb Francisco, Maria A. Rivadulla, Thelma G. Pante, Miguel Q. Poquiz, Emmanuel A. Reyes, Rodilla T. Santos, Agustin L. Sotto, Rolando B. Tolentino, Minerva Trota Tiambeson Jr., Theodore Velasco and Incentive Gallent Lim B. Zaborin.

The book also features interviews of directors Rodoy Dimabuyu, Maryo J. de los Reyes, Gil Portes, Chito Roño, Carlos Vigatan Reyna, Jose Javier Reyes, Joel Lamangan, Olivia M. Lamasan and Raymond Red.

Previous Manunuri titles here—the Urian Anthology 1970-1979 and Urian dodici: up 1999-1989 are considered collector's items.

2010 Maningning Miclat Art Competition now open

WORDS CREW-HOBO Maningning Miclat passed away 10 years ago, she left behind a collapsed book of poetry, "Alice from the Underworld" (Anvil Publishing, a National Book Award finalist in 2002), essays, stories and valuable artworks.

"Archetype" is a mural in the Chinese tradition of scroll painting in a panel is oils, 89 1/2x8 and 44.6 long.

"Trouble in Paradise" is an 8 x 4 abstract which won a Grand Prize from the Art Association of the Philippines in 1995.

To carry on the legacy of the poet-painter, the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation, Inc., in cooperation with Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall and Art Circle Gallery, will accept entries to the Maningning Miclat Art Competition on Sept. 15-20 at Art Circle Gallery, 4/L, The Art Plaza, Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong.

Contestants may also submit their entries at either Art Circle Gallery branches at SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Ayala Supermall, Glorietta 4, UP Bonifacio Global City, Robinson's Place Manila, and Cubao Expo.

There is an open or competition and all painters aged 16 and younger can join.

Entries may be done in oil, watercolor, pen and ink, acrylic, brush and ink, or mixed media in Western or Oriental style.

Three dimensional works are allowed, provided the final product is well-bound. Entries must be framed. The minimum size is 48 cm x 60 cm and the maximum is 90 cm x 120 cm, or equivalent area, without the frame.

The first prize winner will be awarded a Solo Show exclusive at Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Gallery and P50,000; second prize is P35,000; third prize is P25,000. Five honorable mentions will each get P5,000. Awarding is on Sept. 29 at Shangri-La Edsa Plaza.

E-mail maningningfoundation@gmail.com and write mm2006@yahoo.com or call Art Circle Gallery at 634-3305.

Visit http://maningning.com/blog, www.maningning.com and Facebook's Maningning Miclat fan page for the contest rules.

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Ms. GRACE CHONG (Australia)
Vice President and Partner, Strategy and Transformation
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President and CEO
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Session 5: "The Next-Generation Leaders: Shaping the Future Organization" Part 1: ... or Building New Empires

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UPV Tacloban college to hold 12th Viswrite Writers Workshop

THE 12TH VisWrite Writers Workshop will be held Sept. 14-18 at the UPV Tacloban College.

Sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the workshop will be run by the Creative Writing Program and the Division of Humanities of UPVTC.

The only writers workshop that gives special focus on zine writing in Wiring the workshop has for its writing fellows: Jayson Alhaza, Arnee Rodolid, Julio Bernard Castro, Arlie Enil T. Coronda, Jessa Rose C. de la Cerna, Alvin M. Dumandan, Arvin T. Elle, Michael Espada, Steven Javier A.Gerap, Raynel M. Ignacio, Liberato C. Mabaleay, Kris Ornedos, Evangelina Pendavena, Theresia Rodiorion J. Rojas and Hershelgilde Sanchez.

WRITERS at work

They were chosen on the basis of their works submitted for selection by a committee.

The panelists in this year's workshop include: Vernor N. Sugbo, David A. Genilza, Alex Encanto and Phil Harold Mercurio.

DM9 Jayme Syfu wins Agency of the Year Best in Management of Business

2010 Palanca winners honored

THE CARLOS Palanca Foundation honored winners of the 60th Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature (Palanca Awards), the Philippines' most prestigious and most enduring literary awards, during the awarding rites last Sept. 1 at the Manila Peninsula in Makati City.

Guest speaker was Gregorio C. Brillantes, a Palanca Hall of Fame awardee and multi-awarded fiction writer known for his sophisticated and elegant style. His earlier collection of short stories earned him the title of "Technic Writer."

The year's winners:

GREGORIO Brillantes, 60th Palanca Awards guest speaker

CARLOS Palanca Foundation director general Sylvia Palanca-Quirino during the sponsor's remarks

Filipino division

Dulang Panpanitikan

1st—Antonette G. Dagpatin ("Pahiyat")
2nd—Jerry B. Bacolo ("Magdalena")
3rd—No winner

Dulang Dalagat ang Pelte

1st—No winner
2nd—Lina S. Magpoc ("Hanap Pa")
3rd—Christian R. Vallez ("Kapang Bandat Dati: Samahan ng mga Bitter")

Dulang May Isang Yugto

1st—Nicolas B. Pichay ("Isang Araw sa Kamotbal")
2nd—Ray C. Garrido ("Town Elect")
3rd—Adlen R. Lopez ("Hagit Na Dito")

Kalaksan Gamay-ang

1st—Christopher S. Rosales ("Salay-an Kaw ani")
2nd—Ma-lanie L. Ola Jr. ("Ang Mating Pangalan, Ang Mating Kahulugan ay ang Mahiwag Tinamok pa-anay Tinet")
3rd—No winner

Tula

1st—Carlo M. Pascua III ("Saan's Ganoo")
2nd—Rowelle P. Bautista Jr. ("Pandaya")
3rd—Alark Anthony S. Angeles ("Engkantada")

Sanaysay Pambata

1st—No winner
2nd—No winner
3rd—Alvin P. Ortiz ("May Paro-Ang Saging")

Maikling Kwento

1st—No winner
2nd—Rommel B. Rodriguez ("Tools")
3rd—Thomas David T. Dalaez ("Sa Kalalang Lupaka ng Mahalagang Kalutan")

Maikling Nobela ang Pambata

1st—Christopher S. Rosales ("Si Bertling ang Bibiling Ling")
2nd—Ramelo B. Concepcion ("Ang Bagbigbiten na Pagbibitay sina Mario at Ken-I")
3rd—Bernadeta D. Ilao ("Pa-ano ng siga Mapanganga")

Sanaysay

1st—Maria Clarissa B. Erasar ("Ang Payne ng mga Tandang")
2nd—Ferdinand P. Juan ("El Pol Flagan Band")
3rd—Mark Gil B. Cayanan ("Sina Bonsai at ang mga Batang Preso")

English division

Full-length Play

1st—Jay Dioscoro V. ("God of the Machine")
2nd—Jonchimelle Tolson-Sonza ("The Encounter")
3rd—Lito Casaje ("Shooting the Stars")

One-Act Play

1st—No winner
2nd—No winner
3rd—Peter Solis Nery ("The Wide-for-mer Sea")

Short Story

1st—Ma. Elena L. Paulma ("Three Kisses")
2nd—Ma. Rachelle Siscon ("Waiting for Rain")
3rd—Catherine Fiona Galang Torres ("Cold Masala")

Short Story for Children

1st—Irene Carolina A. Sarmiento ("Lolo's Girl")
2nd—Rysterrods Lee C. Matthews ("Lil Bit Bold Goes Home: A Love Story")
3rd—Grace O. Chong ("I am an Apple")

Poetry

1st—Merlie M. Alunan ("Tales of the Spiderwoman")
2nd—Rafael Antonio C. San Diego ("My Name in Reverse")
3rd—Joel R. Vega ("Lullabies and Other Poems")

Poetry for Children

1st—Duffie Alejandrino H. Esental ("After the Storm and Other Poems")
2nd—Patricia Marie Rizalde S. Gomez ("Poems from the Pantry and Prehistoric Times")
3rd—Ma. Celine Anastacio P. Socorro ("Playgrounds")

Essay

1st—Miro Francois S. Capili ("Vinyl")
2nd—Filomenor Mateo L. Jimenez ("Postcards from Somewhere")
3rd—Corinna Esperanza A. Hospo ("Lullaby")

Kalaranan Essay

1st—Miro Francois S. Capili ("The Nature of Warfare")
2nd—Jerico Raphael G. Cabasco ("A Shot at Perfection")
3rd—Catherine E. Tan ("Green at Heart")

Regional division

Short Story—Cebuano

1st—Richel E. Dorotan ("Si Tarzan")
2nd—Jonesito R. Bagaloso ("Tan-alolong Bagabas")
3rd—Noel P. Tayam ("Pasa")

Short Story—Iloko

1st—Shanna E. Bancoro ("Saglit Pa-sagpuot ni Angelo")
2nd—Ariel S. Tabag ("Voice Tape")
3rd—Joel B. Mamaril ("Apo Bannuat Apo Bannuat")

Short Story—Hiligaynon

1st—Andy P. Perez ("Nagsaka")
2nd—Ferdinand L. Bathan ("Bahidmon Ka Ang Inmo Saya")
3rd—Jesus C. Iwalalia, Ed. D. ("Mal-kapanding")

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Amy Winehouse sings again

LOS ANGELES—Cranky Jones says five-time Grammy winner Amy Winehouse's first new track in years will appear on his forthcoming album, "Q: Soul Bossa Nostra." The British songstress, 26, reunited with producer Mark Ronson to record the 1963 classic "It's My Party" for the album celebrating Jones' past hits. AP

"The Passion for a Complete Audio Experience."

Glaiza as modern Cinderella; Willie set to return

ELIGIZA de Castro is ripe for her long overdue lead role. She top-bills GMA-7's fantasy-drama series "Cinderella," which premieres tonight on the Tinsel-lined block.

It brings all the magic of the Cinderella story back to life with a modern twist—the untold story of stepsister Grisilda who still lives a life a la Cinderella.

A reversal of fortune happens and the close antagonist of the story turns into a modern protagonist. Playing her Prince Charming is Geoff Eigenmann.

Isn't she wary that their team-up would renew friction between Geoff and his rumored girlfriend, Carla Abellana?

"I can say she's supportive," she explains. "So we tend to worry. The three of us trust it to work. Nothing beyond that."

If Glaiza had a fairy godmother, what would she wish for?

"A house by the beach, a private jet," she muses, "and an energize-free life."

How does she handle the pressures of landing her first major role?

"I don't live up to everyone's expectations," she says. "I'd rather count my blessings than dwell on the pressure. I take this opportunity as a challenge to make me discover what I'm capable of. Not everyone is given such a big break so I won't let that pass me by. Gotta go!"

The newest princess on prime time is set to shine happily ever after.

Boss Vic's treat

Willie Revillame and boss Vic del Rosario treated Wowowee's loyal dancers and staff to a sightseeing at Hotel Rembrandt's allee restaurant for Willie's new show which will be a co-production of TV5 and a major network.

Digi gamely sang all his signature songs which made his staff weep-eyed. Even if "Wowowee" has gone off the air, he still gives his staff bonuses recently as bienvenue to side dates aren't.

If there's Willie, there's a way (into of money).

Revealing photos

Could it be true that Rhian Ramos was approached by GMA-7 for her revealing photos with DJ Mo which were shown on TV5's "Hapasaan"? Mo and Rhian set it up in jest after Stella Gutierrez announced a P100,000 reward for anybody who could send evidence that they are lookout's couple.

I wonder Rhian about it but to press time, she hasn't replied. Rhian had no qualms about posing with Mo so I guess the Kapuso network should just let Rhian's "pose" do as it pleases.

Pa's new home

Mr. Pa is ecstatic about his new home 102.5 Wow FM. "I made the right decision to switch stations," he says. "Before so as not to jump ship too soon and the bosses gave me their blessing. I'm excitedly getting to know the jocks like every artist I have to spread my wings. My point?"

Mind Taylor-ned I mixed: Pa at the taping of my thirty candle show, "Stop, Talk & Listen" on Cignal TV's Viva Cinema Channel because he had to undergo a credit surgery. I texted him that it's the effect of his nonstop talking.

Pa leaves Pa over-nine his home biz beginnings at DJPS 5. See you many people leave than Pa's answer is Pia Hontiveros. He approached her as a DJ/Event to apply as her production assistant.

And the rest is history ... and she hyperion ikea comes with being Mr. Pa.

E-mail: easyrightsforlumpkin@yahoo.com

GLAIZA de Castro

WILLIE Revillame

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

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George Clooney, humanitarian

THE RESIDENTMENT found that George Clooney recently received at the Emmys star only the latest in a series of honors conferred on the popular actor.

Along with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, Clooney has proven that there's more to your than his handsome film fame, fortune, talent and ego.

In fact, they have supported important causes not only with their bankless making celebrity, but also with their personal lives, and many costly and hurting people have benefited from their stellar charisma.

At the Emmys, Clooney was humbled and thanked, but he chose, quite characteristically, to shift the spotlight he was himself and focus on the good that we can all do.

He realistically pointed out that it's easy for many people to want to help in the court of a crisis or disaster—but the problem is finding enough sustained concern and willingness to help months or years thereafter.

He urged everyone to choose causes they had strongly about, and continue to support those causes for the long term.

Killer he hire

To show their gratitude to Clooney for his inspiring endeavors, viewers should support his latest movie, "The American." Clooney plays a killer for hire who finds redemption for the terrible deed he's done when he takes time off for peace, friendship and love in the hidden countryside, where he relishes living away from death he's spell.

Director Anton Corbijn follows "Control" with honors at Cannes), pinpoints his next. Since affording and provocative theme: "The idea of trying to change one's life—how can you make good after doing wrong? And, can you overcome things that might be deeply embedded in you, which in fact define you?" Provocative, indeed.

Producer James Carey acted first in "The Americans," as in Nowhere. "There is a man who has lived by the gun, and the violence he's lived by threatens to infect the peace he thinks he's found, in a place where he thinks he could live for the rest of his life."

Provocative films

Other provocative productions about to hit the silver screen include: "The Town," Ben Affleck's latest movie, which he also directs. It's about another "town" a bank robber with no attachments and that doesn't stop losing anyone close to him. Until he takes a bank manager (Rebecca Hall) hostage, and falls in love with her. Will he be able to escape a past that has no future?

For her part, in "Going the Distance," Drew Barrymore explores the trials and triumphs of a long-distance romantic relationship. Costly for not-so-long-term boyfriend, Justin Long.

And young star Zoe Kazan departs from his lighthearted screen persona to play a sensitive and introspective for a change on "Chuck vs. Good," where he portrays a young man who survives an accident that changes him to see the world in a uniquely different way.

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Timmy Cruz, woman in love

Sunday's hot new CD reflects the single life singer Timmy Cruz has mastered.

LOVE, "FIERCE and pure, unqualified, unlimited" they words, and spoken very convincingly! has brought variety and greater artist acceptance Timmy Cruz out of her virtual shell, and led her back to what she really shouldn't stop doing—singing.

Cruz's affections are assigned to one grand design and one unbounded idea —nature and God...and she is far from coy in expressing these. "I love you! I love you, Mother Earth," she exclaims on the cover of her new CD, "affirm with Timmy Cruz." And for her "Tinig Sadre Soul," she has incorporated in the collection four nature reflections, two in English and two in Filipino.

These great loves didn't just suddenly catch her, Cruz admits. "I was 7 years old when I met a 'kumpare' that always led me to our garden, where I spent more time than I did indoors. Sunlight bathed me as I basked in my roses. At sunset, the wind hummed and birds twittered as the sky broke out in baby pinks and baby blues. And when rainwater was aplenty, I would sneak out to the garden again, to feel the coolness and listen to the stillness."

She can say that now, when before she might have been thought absent as gone too far. She has earned the woes of authority. God was the Company, she declares, exclaiming that intensified love for nature led her from materialistic to primitive. In Tagaytay City, where she has built her own little home surrounded by a vast garden, she stops out only to maintain a monthly healing program she started and several meditation classes at the Center for Spiritual Learning.

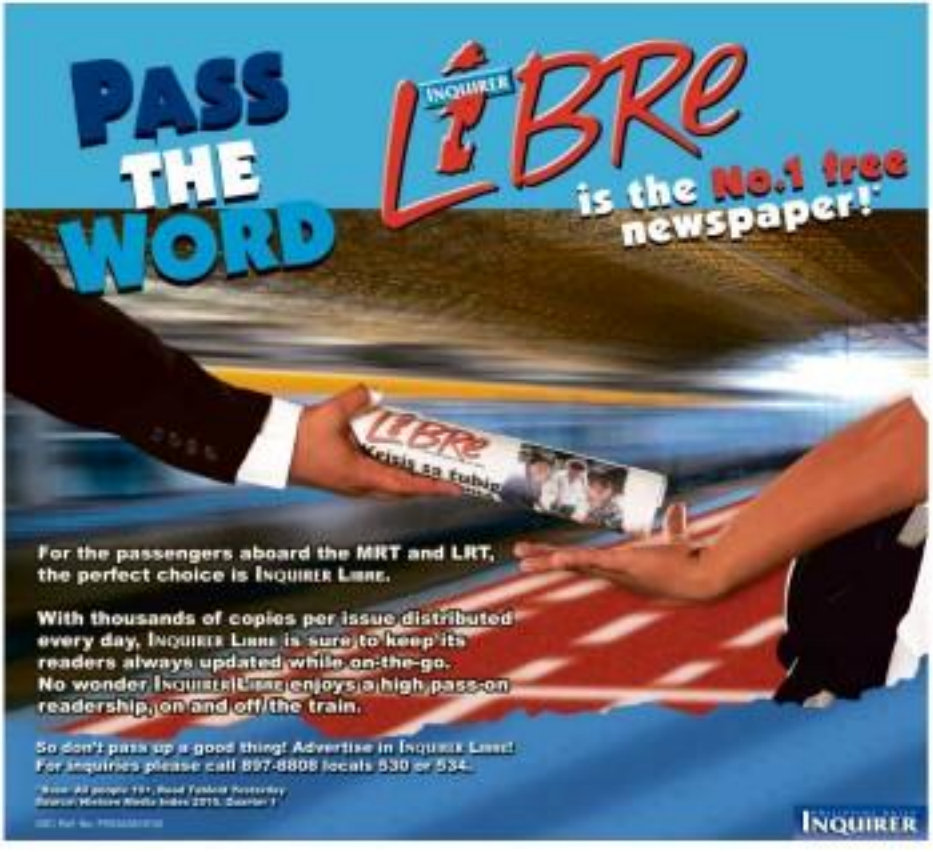
The songs in "Tinig Sadre Soul" reflect the decidedly simple life she has embraced and an unabashed absorption in her two main passions.

"You are my home, my refuge," she croons in "Ubob Slate, Ilom's City Love Song for Mother Earth." Arena chic elevation has not gone unrequited. Last year, Cruz won a Fr. Nori Saint Award for Environmental Activism.

In the reflection, "Sunrise," the guest lyr Divine Retiverd: "My happy heart and soul bow to you." Likewise, in "Sunset," she says good night: "I rest in your embrace—in your perfect love."

Warning to the prospective listener: Try not to be jealous. Brenda G. Belarde

Cheer Factor



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3 MAMAYANG
4 14TH DAY
5 DESPICABLE ME
6 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
7 THE LAST EXORCISM
8 PAGMAMAHAL
9 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
10 THE EXPENDABLES

MANILA

1 THE LAST EXORCISM
2 GOING THE DISTANCE
3 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
4 THE EXPENDABLES
5 SA'YO LAMANG
6 DESPICABLE ME
7 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

METRO EAST

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 DESPICABLE ME
6 THE EXPENDABLES
7 14TH DAY
8 THE LAST EXORCISM

NOVALICHES

1 PLAYBOATS (g) (S. HAMAYOSA / SHIRE) 4
2 10TH DAY
3 GOING THE DISTANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 GOING THE DISTANCE
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
4 SA'YO LAMANG

STA. ROSA

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE (Digital 3D)
2 10TH DAY
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 GOING THE DISTANCE

LIPA

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
4 IP MAN 2

DASMARIÑAS

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 GOING THE DISTANCE
3 DESPICABLE ME
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

STARMILLS

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 MAMAYANG
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
4 SA'YO LAMANG
5 GOING THE DISTANCE
6 THE EXPENDABLES

IMUS

1 14TH DAY
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 DESPICABLE ME

ANGELES

1 GOING THE DISTANCE
2 DESPICABLE ME
3 SA'YO LAMANG
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

TACLOBAN

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
3 CATS AND DOGS 2

DUMAGUETE

1 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 SA'YO LAMANG

BACOLOD

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 IP MAN 2
4 THE EXPENDABLES
5 AN AMERICAN VIRGIN
6 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

ILOILO

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 MAMAYANG
3 VAMPIRES SUCK
4 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
5 SPLICE
6 SA'YO LAMANG

GENSAN

1 DESPICABLE ME (Digital 3D)
2 SA'YO LAMANG
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE
4 AN AMERICAN VIRGIN

ILOCOS NORTE

1 SA'YO LAMANG
2 THE EXPENDABLES
3 RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE

Cuck!

JAMIE Lynn and Matthew Morrison

'Glee,' season 2

THE SECOND season of hit musical comedy "Glee" premieres on Sept. 21 on its new prime time telecast at 9 p.m. on Jack TV. The first episode of the new season features international Filipino singer Charice.

On Showtime, the cable network also features the musical video show "Behind Songs" at 5 p.m. followed by the high-flying paranormal show Bill Dyshkant and his "Fantasy Factory" at 7:00 p.m.

Deadly creatures

"Wild Russia," a new 10-part series featuring world adventurer and animal expert Donald Schultz, airs on Animal Planet on Tuesdays at 10 p.m.

Donald faces some of the rightest, deadliest and most fascinating creatures in the wild natural habitats in exciting locales.

"WILD Russia"

Encores are on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and on Saturdays at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Team challenge

"The Amazing Race 17," which features several teams of two in a race around the world, premieres on Sept. 27 at 10:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

This year's starting line is the Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore, Mountbatten.

The cast includes four beauty queens and their racing partners, a YouTube star and his father and a team of two Princeton graduates.

Bloodbath revisited

History reminds us the Philippine movement that claimed scores of lives in "The Maguindanao Massacre," a one-hour special on Sept. 26 at 10 p.m.

Replays are on Sept. 27 at 3 a.m., 10 p.m. and 6 p.m., Sept. 28 at 11 a.m. and Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Inside the Kapamilya film vaults

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN SHORT, the ABS-CBN cinema library has become the country's de facto National Archives, according to Joey del Mundo, president of the Society of Filipino Archivists for Film (SOFA), which was formed in 1995.

Mary Jol Pilar, manager of the ABS-CBN Film Archives and a SOFA member, pointed out that the current state of our nation's audio-visual heritage is alarming.

5,000 films lost

Citing a 2008 study conducted by both, Jol Pilar explained that, from among "8,000 movies produced since the beginning of cinema in this country, only 3,000 are still existing... 5,000 have been lost"—either due to wet calamity or sheer neglect.

"Of the 3,000 extant films, 2,500 are stored in the ABS-CBN Archives," she said.

The remaining 500 are kept in the University of the Philippines, the Mowelfund Institute, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the homes of some private individuals and collectors.

The Kapamilya archives was established over a decade ago to catalogue, organize and protect the movies produced by the media company's film outfits—Star Cinema.

In 2003, the archives moved to the basement of the Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communication Center, the network's Quezon City headquarters.

Jol Pilar was present during most of the conclusions of the film vaults to ensure that the specifications would comply with global standards.

"We made sure the vaults had non-ferrous nails," she said, describing the purpose-built film vaults that consist of four 600-square foot air-divided between moderate-to-cool and long-term storage.

Fire suppression system

They are also protected with a unique fire-suppression system. In case of fire, gas will be pumped into the vaults to deoxygenate the oxygen inside, since water can damage the film collection.

Two air-humidification rooms were constructed between the long-term vault and the exit. To have set take out a film from the long-term vault, it has to stay in Acclimatization Room No. 1 for 24 hours and Acclimatization Room No. 2 for another 24 hours to prevent damage caused by condensation due to rapid temperature change," explained Jol Pilar.

Temperature in the long-term vault is 18 degrees Celsius with 35 percent humidity. In the medium-term vault, temperature is 20 degrees Celsius with 45 to 50 percent humidity.

It is imperative to manage the temperatures and humidity to avoid the vinegar syndrome (degraded film colors) or crumbling nitrate and mold growth, the said.

The audiovisuals storage facility contains films in 35-mm, which provide the best image aspect that are accessed most often.

Stored in the long-term vault is the prized collection of DZV Pictures, over 330 titles, including one of the few remaining copies of Eliza, "Ifuko Ko," produced in 1970 and starring Hilda del Sud and Mona Lisa.

Also in here is "Barrio na Iisa," another 1939 production. Historically, which starred their 9-year-old child star Tita Duran, mother of Pinoykrid.

Social responsibility

Apart from Star Cinema titles, the ABS-CBN Archives also houses in the film libraries of Bernardo Pon Jr., Doreen Bautista, Bayanihan, and Buddy Encarnacion, along with some Dyna-mites, Regina, Regal and Viewtides.

"It's part of our corporate social responsibility," Jol Pilar said. "Since the owners need has yet to establish a National Archives, we have opened up our storage facilities to other producers and film archivists."

The late Filmmaker Joey Gosiengfiao left a 16-mm copy of his 1974 movie, "La Dolorosa Ang Kahapdang Lapot," with the archives before his passing in 2007.

Curators, responsibility

Movie cut titles, blueprints, costumes, posters and other important documents are also stored in the archives.

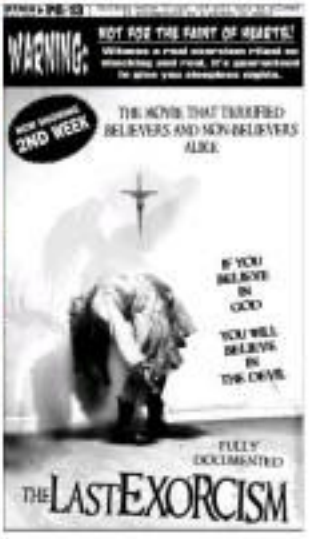
The curators said memorabilia is in the vaults are mainly from Star Cinema movies, but there are also a few select items from the DZV Museum which closed down in 2005. Most of the DZV pieces—12,250 photos, 6 stills, 2 posters and 1 costume—are, for now, not housed in the Lopez Museum.

"ABS-CBN is now a member of the Southeast Asia Pacific Audio-Visual Archive Association," said Jol Pilar. "It's important to preserve these movies so that future generations would be able to watch them."

The ABS-CBN Archives, said, caters students, film scholars and researchers who can view vintage films within its premises.

"Researchers need only to write a letter of request," said Jol Pilar. "We will schedule screening depending on the availability of preview facilities."

DEL Pilar explains that drastic changes in temperatures and humidity contribute to the decolorization of films.



Singer-actress gets wrong love advice from disgruntled pals

NBA star Mitch Richmond and Mitro Host mascot Bernie gamed on GMA-7's "Sisong Hoki" recently to promote NBA-Asia Challenge 2010, an exhibition game between NBA legends and Philippine Basketball Association heroes. Above photo is Mr. Host Drew Arellano.

By the Entertainment staff

THE REAL Friends of Singer-Actress are worried that she's getting the wrong advice regarding love matters.

He is on the verge of breaking up with Cute Hubby, after she caught him red-handed. They are trying to patch things up, but Ate's Disgruntled Pals are warning her against a reconciliation—not out of concern for Ate, but because she (PPs are disenchanted about guys.

GPP, disdained Actress, is separated from the broke father of her kids, DP2, Character Actress, has a strained rela-tionship with Playboy Bulgar.

Misery loves company?

Wandering soul

This time, it's the girl who strayed from the straight and narrow path.

Pretty Starlet allegedly called it quits with Childhood Sweetheart. Or was it the other way around?

CS caught PS fooling around, during an ex-fiame, virtually challenged Mani-nee Idol. CS saw red and threatened PS with a gun. That was enough to scare PS away from that jealous guy and into the arms of Disjointed Hunk.

What happened to MS? Left hanging... again.

Return engagement

Separated Actress had a date with Playboy Hunk in a classy hotel frequented by jet-throng and show biz celebrities.

Needless to say, Mr and PS were DYI by several witnesses.

PS swears it was a one-shot deal, but then AS asked for an encore?

Split decision

The whole of show town is silent: Drama Star and Long-Suffering Husband are approaching Splitsville.

Everyone from the couple's camp has denied it, but a source close to the family thinks there is more to the rumor than meets the eye.

Mole claims LH has confided to a relative about her marital woes and his desire to live "stress-free."

However, JH allegedly refuses to give LH his freedom because of the monthly check in her endorsement contracts.

CLAUDINE Barretto

Hunks for real!

Guys about town are having a good laugh over the latest issue of a glossy mag featuring nearly naked hunks.

That's because some of the studs are either suspiciously effeminate or have bad close encounters of the queer kind.

Only a few of the guys are certifiably hetero. (How of hunks, er... hunks, please.

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in Dyosera Liddoid Bandera last week. (And why we are not surprised.)

- DJ Mo neighboring dalid boy Blaze Ramos. (She walked out on?)
- Angelica Panganiban hinggan ng whitewash si Claudine Barretto. (Sayang, Claudine's out (untouched.)
- Claudine Barretto at Gretchen Barretto, wala nang pati kay ex (Oppo na, 'di ba?)
- Raymart Santiago Tipikal ng ex-ex si Claudine! (Defensive bahlat 'di, that didn't come out right.)
- Sam Pinto: Single pa rin ako! (And we're interested! Imagine...?)
- Kris Aquino, pumirma ulit sa mga pahi sa mga dyaryo. (Mirror din ng ego 'yan.)
- Kris, Bakla rin si Baby Junior! (Why are we not surprised?)
- Jed Madela nagsuot dalid sa hanahon. (He's still the best singer on that program.)
- Cory Martin: Si Sarah Geronimo parang buong babaeng. (Oyyyy.)
- John Lloyd Cruz makisharmoc dyid kay Shaina Magdayao. (Ito 'yung alam nyo na.)
- Alex Gonzaga pasasalon, Toni Gonzaga susunod na. (Pero kasi sya?)
- Showbusiness Ate Manzano-Pinky Webb pinoh lang? (Tingin din nawala.)
- Willie Revillame: Subscriber si Cheryl Cosim? (Dun, Cheryl, ran?)

E-mail us: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

OVERHEARD

HANKY-LESBO: Manila, Boy's mom and now also a producer endorser Dr Regorina Carmel Bautista, on her Instagram wow "Medalid Kasing Bida at Idolo, physically and mentally sweet pa lang Hindi ayo magsh se pagkain. Tuning birthday boy, carmel beef at mojito na lechon kasi ang hinahangi niya."

RUSHES SPECIAL

Time to honor teachers
Sept. 3–Oct. 5 is Teachers Month

LEARNING
Editor: Cheiko Bernal Romero
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph

Bench-sponsored IIE Serial Reading
"Legend of the Pony's Tears" Chapter 4/ G4

Poverty and scarcity are no barriers to quality education

(The following is excerpted from a paper delivered at the Ateneo Magsaysay Award dinner series.)

By Christopher C. Bonnin and Maria Victoria Carpio-Bonnin

POVERTY and scarcity are proverbial constraints traveled to account for mediocrity in the education and training of the youth.

On the other hand, as physicists, we know that in the study of natural phenomena, the presence of strong constraints and boundaries in a physical system often leads to some exciting effects and, at times, even unexpected new phenomena.

Thus, when we decided to run the Central Visayas Institute Foundation (CVIF), we viewed the small high school as a microcosm of a burgeoning nationwide educational crisis.

From our first day in 1999, we were for 100 percent immersion in the routines and challenges of daily school life, but with a 100 percent open mind for low-cost but effective solutions.

We could not disconnect the possibility that, far from being burdens to quality education, poverty and scarcity might just lead us to zero in on the core of the learning process.

The teacher problem

Let's look at the (manifest) problem and take physics as an example.

In the Philippines, according to studies of the Department of Science and Technology, the percentage of qualified high school physics teachers dropped from 27 percent in the 1990s to a mere eight percent by 2003.

In the website of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (Seameo), accessed in 2010, the number is a more dismal four percent.

This has been attributed to massive migration of science and mathematics teachers to advanced countries, schools can offer five to six times the basic salaries of public school teachers in the Philippines, with benefits for accompanying families. Add to this the big difference between the quality of life and delivery of basic services in the advanced countries and in poor developing countries.

Thus, in spite of the big budget measure of training programs of science teachers, the numbers have detected no oil to alarming levels!

The usual remedy clearly has not worked. Any additional training of teachers makes them more marketable globally, and it has become increasingly easier to export high levels of alienation and patriotism. The more painful realization is that Filipinos are paying all home invested to train teachers for other countries.

Our solution: Rethink the role of the teacher in the learning process, and motivate a program that would not be strongly dependent on teacher qualifications, ability and personality but on the same time should foster the professional development of the teacher.

This we complemented through the parallel classes scheme and activity-based lessons of the CVIF Dynamic Learning Program (DLP).

From the CVIF DLP experience, we also derived the strategy for the Learning Physics in the Student (LPOTS) project launched in 2008 by the Faculties Academic to Private Education with funding from the Department of Education (Deped).

The LPOTS project answers the question: Can high school students learn essential physics topics effectively even if their classroom teacher has little or no physics training?

An assessment of the project after its first year of implementation indicates a positive response to this question.

LPOTS materials have been made available to over 300 private schools in all regions of the Philippines. These include a specially designed Physics Essentials Portfolio of 250 learning activities to be independently accomplished by students during one school year, and annotated 10 DVD volumes of video lectures by national scientists.

The materials are designed such that a command from any member student program, and address questions from the field through e-mail, mobile phone text messages, Skype and like courier services. The LPOS prototype happens the need for qualified teachers and yet effectively prepares the students for college-level physics.

With assessments of students performance showing significant trend, plans are in progress for Learning to Use Nature materials for all other sciences and math subjects following the LPOS model.

The textbook problem

The Deped has been working hard to reach the 1:1 textbook to student ratio. However, the quality of the textbooks is highly questionable. Indeed, which would be better, no textbook or school textbook?

Our solution: For public schools, pick a select team of experts that would conceptualize and design concise Learning Activities to be accomplished by students in class.

As in the CVIF DLP, only one copy per class is needed since the students will copy by hand the material from the board or from the screen. For schools with enough textbooks, teacher-made learning activities can be based on the textbooks and other reference materials, depending on the topic.

The science lab problem

This problem leads us to a question at a more fundamental level. Being theoretical physicists, we believe that, at the high school level, there is no need for expensive lab equipment to be able to learn scientific processes and methods of analysis.

For example, the simple pendulum can be used to demonstrate the scientific method of experimentation, analysis and mathematical modeling. Moreover, the pendulum is a good model to highlight basic principles such as conservation of mechanical energy and simple harmonic motion.

Our solution: Strategically select cheap and simple experimental set-ups that clearly demonstrate fundamental principles of science.

Interestingly, the National Research Council of the United States released the comprehensive "Inquiry

FOR ARTICLE

2010 RAMON Magsaysay Award recipients Ms. Victoria Bonnin and Christopher Bonnin

(ABOVE, L-R) Science Secretary Mario G. Montejo, Unesco Philippines OIC Jeannemie Tuason, L'Oreal's Olivier Marquet, UP College of Medicine podiatrics chair Dr. Carmencita Padilla, L'Oreal Unesco awards Cruz, and host Karen Davila. (right) Cruz

Two national fellowships for Filipino women scientists

DUBAI, Philippines launched last week the Girl For Women in Science (FWS) National Fellowships in the Philippines, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Unesco Philippines.

DOST-Philippines managing director Lor Olivier-Marquet said the Philippines joined a clutch of countries with FWS national fellowships that had contributed to the diversification of scientific research in those countries.

Two fellowship grants, each worth P600,000, will be awarded to two deserving women scientists to be selected by a panel of judges chaired by National Scientist Lourdes J. Cruz.

For its first year, FWS-Philippines will accept research proposals related to the life and material sciences. Applicants must be Filipino women not more than 45 years old who have doctorate degrees in any field of science and must use the fellowship grants on the scientific research projects described in their applications or research proposal.

Application forms may be downloaded from the FWS website (www.fwis.com.ph) and must be submitted on or before Nov. 30.

In addition to the national fellowships, there are international fellowships granted every year to women researchers in the life sciences, at the doctoral or post-doctoral level, whose promising projects have been accepted by a reputable institution outside their home countries.

Also, a laureate is chosen annually from each of the five continents (Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America for the L'Oreal-Unesco Awards.

Cruz is the first Filipino and first Asian laureate of the L'Oreal-Unesco Awards. She is a professor at the Marine Science Institute at the University of the Philippines. She was awarded $100,000 for her discovery and research on the biochemical and molecular nature of marine small toxins that had been found to assist in the study of the brain function.

Cruz declared at the launching of the national fellowships that she had donated the prize money to the Rural Livelihood Incubator, an NGO she established in 2001 to generate jobs and establish sustainable means of livelihood to help solve poverty and unemployment sustainability in rural areas.

FWIS was created in 1998 by L'Oréal and Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The first international awards in hires on women in science. FWIS has become one of the most anticipated annual events in the scientific community in more than 60 countries.

In the Philippines, there are more women graduates in natural science, mathematics and computer science, medical and allied sciences, even in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary medicine.

Global statistics, however, show that although more than half of university degree-holders are women, only 30 percent of them are in the sciences and technology. In research, women represent only 25 percent of the population. In the 100 years of existence of the Nobel Prizes in science, only 2.5 percent of the laureates are women.

For more information on FWIS national fellowships, log on to www.fwis.com.ph or e-mail the FWIS Secretariat at FWISsecretariat@unesco.com.ph.

Scholarships for science, engineering offered

APPLICATIONS for the 2011 science and technology scholarships are now being accepted by the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-SEI).

The scholarships are open to senior high school students and graduates who have not earned any college units.

Deadline for filing of applications is Oct. 8. Examinations date is Nov. 21.

Selected scholars can pursue four- or five-year baccalaureate degrees in priority science and technology fields.

These include:

Agriculture, agricultural chemistry, agricultural engineering, agricultural and biosystems engineering, animal engineering, applied mathematics, applied physics, biochemistry, biology, ceramics engineering, chemistry with applied computer system, chemistry with materials science and engineering, chemistry with science teaching, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, computational science, computer engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, electronics and communications engineering, environmental engineering, fisheries, food technology, forestry, geology, geodetic engineering, geological sciences and engineering, industrial engineering, industrial management engineering, information technology, instrumentation technology, manufacturing engineering, management, biomedical engineering, manufacturing engineering, management mechatronics and robotics, materials engineering, mechanical engineering, mechanics, mechatronics engineering, metallurgical engineering, mining engineering, molecular biology and biotechnology, physics, physics with applied computer system, physics with materials science and engineering, science teaching, and statistics.

SEI Director Dr. Josue R. Ogena said the scholarship program was designed to help the government pursue its objective to build up the country's capacity in science and technology.

The program would provide the country the needed human resource, trained in science and technology and focusing in particular on research and development, to help achieve the goal of economic development.

Application forms and scholarship brochures are available at the SEI office, 3rd Floor, PTRI Bldg., Bicutan, Taguig City; DOST Regional Offices, Provincial Science and Technology Centers or offices of congressmen.

Online application is also available from www.science-scholarships.ph.

Privileges include tuition and other school fees, monthly stipend, book allowance, physical education or National Service Training Program uniform allowance, one graduation allowance and a one-time transportation allowance for those studying outside their home provinces, group health and accident insurance, and post-graduation clothing allowance.

Scholars who have to take summer classes will also get a monthly living allowance, tuition and other school fees, and book allowance.

DOST scholars have totaled more than 10,000 since the enactment of Republic Act No. 7687 or the Science and Technology Scholarship Program.

The DOST has been giving scholarships since 1958, a year after the National Science Development Board, precursor of DOST, was created.

DOST Data

Graduates of Study in Science, Engineering and Related Course by Sex

Field of Study	Baccalaureate		Master's		Doctoral	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All Disciplines	130,160	180,758	6,207	8,018	188	834
Natural Science	1,338	2,704	48	84	3	10
Mathematics & Computer Science	10,884	14,318	187	86	3	3
Engineering & Technology	39,566	47,744	216	88	5	1
Medical & Allied	7,330	18,054	178	326	2	1
Agricultural, Forestry, Fisheries, Vet. Med.	4,804	5,014	125	133	10	10
Other (Non-S&T)	76,000	134,400	4,254	7,482	564	830

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Westfields International School: Where the world learns together

THE MOST valuable skill for the future is the ability to live, work and interact in a global environment. Westfields' global communities welcome tomorrow's leaders here, around the world. Through Westfields' education, Filipinos and internationals and students from and together in a co-curriculum that is critically, culturally diverse and intellectually stimulating.

Westfields International School (WIS) provides an internationally accredited curriculum for children of more than 30 nationalities living in Angeles City and neighboring areas.

The goal of the school is to provide each learner with an enjoyable and meaningful experience, while discovering and developing skills and talents that will facilitate success both here at Westfields and beyond.

Westfields International School places importance on its rich and balanced curriculum. The school provides a challenging, caring, academic environment, emphasizing tolerance and respect for others.

The school year starts from mid-June to the end of March, and is divided into three terms. Classes open on Mondays to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for grade school and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for high school. Considerable emphasis is placed on the development of study and research skills, as well as on subject knowledge.

The school seeks to provide students with international understanding and opportunities to practice responsible world citizenship. Students are encouraged to become critical thinkers, good writers, and enthusiastic and happy life-long learners through the provision of a stimulating and enrichment curriculum that is strong in core academic areas and enriched through cultural, physical and artistic pursuits.

Letran students hold green convention

THE 12 Points graduating students held a grand convention fest, 10 at SM Manila Cinema 12. The activity entitled "Green Summit Envoys: Gearing towards Sustainable Future" was a first-time event in the Literature Workshop Program under the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA). The group was committed to promoting equality, understanding, information and, of the ocean time, student-friendly convention. The convention was designed to equip young sports enthusiasts edge on the proper way to deal with environmental problems. It aimed to educate the youth, students and young professionals on their role in protecting the environment. The convention tried to influence and encourage youth-based to become faithful stewards of Mother Earth. The group was under the guidance of Eva Laurel and Adrian Sacmalan. For more information, you may call the web-site www.glee-sgtmmmmmm.webs.com.

Pace two-day seminar in Davao City

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Colleges and Universities (Pace) conducted recently the first in its summer series for 2010-2011 in Mindanao. Hosted by University of Mindanao (UM) at the DFI Auditorium, UM Matina Campus, Davao City. The seminar on "The Art and the Practice of Dissertation" helped educators, especially businessmen of quality education in the different schools, in addressing the urgent need for competitive, efficient, productive and accountable institutions for this country and the world. The two-day seminar also helped participants to finish the papers for the MS candidates from Cagayan, Visayas and Mindanao. With the comprehensive and experiential relevant ideas that the experts provided and shared, the participants were more than satisfied with what they heard and discussed. The two-day seminar did not only help them acquire new knowledge and techniques but was also a memorable collaboration among the speakers and the participants.

CCP offers HRM and tourism management courses

RESPONDING TO the global demands of the turbulent tourism industries, the Central Colleges of the Philippines added this SY 2010-2011 two new courses offerings to its existing programs – BSHRM and BS Tourism. As part of their education for this exciting world of hotels, fine dining and leisure, and travel, among others, the HRM and tourism students visited the World Food Expo (Wofex 2010) at the World Trade Center last month. Other recollection and co-curricular activities have been lined up to give the students the keenest competitive edge in the highly demand hotel and tourism industries. For more information, please log on to www.ccp.edu.ph or call the registrar at 7 79-01-70 local 120.

UST's tradition of excellence in rehabilitation sciences

IN THE July 2010 Licensure Examinations for Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists, the College of Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Santo Tomas was considered the top performing school in physical therapy in the board exam. The physical therapy graduates, who registered a passing percentage of 97.1 percent in the maximum passing rate was 46 percent), while Jade Allyn D. Lee topped the grade of 84.35 percent and was a 0.009 share. For occupational therapy, who became board-takers, a Santo's Bane of his Academic Excellence recipient and academic year was first with a grade of 81.40 percent. The occupational therapy graduates had their scorching percentage of 49 percent (the national passing rate was 34 percent). The performance served as another testament to the continuing commitment of the University of Santo Tomas, which celebrates its 400th anniversary in 2011, to provide quality education that builds the family, the nation and the church.

LPU sends paper presenters to Macau

LYCEUM OF the Philippines University (LPU) in Batangas sent paper presenters to the 16th Asia Pacific Tourism Association (Apta) Annual Conference in Macau. They are Dr. Mark Irvin C. Calip, dean of LPU's College of International Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM), and Ms. T. Teresita Sandra S. Nelson and Angela Monic L. Rizzonde. LPU faculty researchers in the July 2010 themed "Cooperation and Collaboration between Regional Tourism Organizations" in Cotai Luxury Resort in Macau. Calip's paper titled "Preservation of Protected Areas: The Taal, Philippines Experience", while Nelson and Rizzonde presented their paper entitled "A Survey of Batangas Province Tourism Industry: Basis for a Local Government Tourism Program". Since a history of over a decade, Apta is now able to fulfill more actively its mission to advance and foster tourism education, research, and professionalism in the Asia Pacific region. Its achievements are impressive given the short period of time of its existence, and these are all attributed to the commitment of more than 90 member organizations of Apta, many of which have come to support the Apta members from overseas. Meanwhile, LPU remains the country's most awarded MRM and tourism school, holding 22 national championships and four international awards.

6th PAGE-NCR Graduate Research Congress

TRINITY UNIVERSITY Asia (TUA) participated in the 6th Graduate Research Congress of the Philippine Association for Graduate Education - National Capital Region (PAGE-NCR) held recently at the New Era University. Dr. Lilibeth Estrella, quality management director for the Commission on Higher Education, spoke on the theme "Enhancing Competitiveness in Writing Policy-Oriented Research Articles and Managing and Publication the Journals". Dr. Marguerite Chavez, PAGE-NCR president and Dean of Ateneo Graduate School, delivered the statement of purpose explaining the objectives of the research congress while Dr. Epifanio Pobiglo, PAGE national president and TUA's dean presided his academic affairs, gave updates. PAGE-NCR conducts annually this research congress, where selected papers and researches are presented to encourage both graduate school faculty and students to undertake research studies. Also covered during the congress were Dr. Abigail R. Cruz, consultant for the association's Publication Subcommittee; Fe Esteban Gonzales, Dr. Gerardo C. Chato, president of Bicol State University, and Dr. Gerardo C. Chato, president of Bicol State University and board member of the PAGE-NCR. Garcia, as the keynote speaker of the program, was introduced by Dr. Herminio D. Laquinta, a board member of the PAGE-NCR. Dr. Helen E. Pascua, PAGE-NCR PRE, and Dr. Abraham E. Iratan, a board member of the PAGE-NCR, served as moderators during the open forum. A special silent lecture session was presented by the MSU Glee Club. For more information, contact Dina Gutierrez at (02) 4-24-3416.

FRESHMEN ASSEMBLY WITH EFREN PEÑAFLORIDA

The Philippine Women's University held its latest series of Freshmen Assembly with Efren Peñaflorida (second from right), 2009 CNN Hero, as resource speaker. He talked about how he started his campaign "Dream Believe Unite, Tell Compare, Mobile. Following his speech, Peñaflorida was presented a plaque of appreciation. Others in photo are (from left) PWU director Dr. Perlita Ilao and Cynthia Zamora, chief executive officer Alfredo B. Reyes, and Ateneo, abating.

RECOGNITION FOR FORMER PNU PRESIDENT

A highlight of the recent 109th PNU foundation anniversary was the giving of a plaque of recognition to former president Lily Ilacad for four years of outstanding leadership in teacher education and ECE) government. PNU officer-in-charge Dr. Ma. A. Rodriguez and the university officials, among recognitions, also

AGNU professor receives award from PAP

In the annual convention held May 18-21 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) awarded to Dr. Leonora Ignatia F.C. Mendoza the 2010 Dr. Jaime C. Bautista, S.J., Award for Teaching in Psychology. Mendoza was cited for being a teacher who motivated the students with Bautista's three-pronged approach: the nation's psychology teachers nominated for the award. Mendoza was chosen because of her creative method of teaching, her building confidence in her students, and building it from a generation for developing inspiring them to explore, discover, and bring out their creativity in the process of learning. Mendoza is associate professor V of the Psychology Department within Ateneo de Naga University.

CHOOSE, MSU FORGE PARTNERSHIP

Sharing the same goal of uplifting the standard of English education in the country, ICHS (Canada) Training Institute, Inc. and MSU-Naval State University, a new dawn ceremony in the province of Biliran that offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and short-term courses to different fields of study. Forged recently, a partnership. Through the initiative of Commissioner Rene E. Nicdao of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), ISTT is also an Approved Training Program is integrated into the curriculum for graduating college students of Naval State University. ISTT is tailored to the needs of graduating students to prepare and apply them with the skills they would need to pass job interviews after graduation. A certification for employment examination, ISTT focuses on developing communication, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, leadership, creativity, and motivation. The training program offers participants to speak more clearly using the correct pronunciation, intonation, rhythm, and emphasis. Others are trained how to write correctly using the correct grammar rules, vocabulary, and effectively. Shown are (seated from left) Naval State University Lucy Cabrera, MSU CEO Lorenzo Cabrera Sandy, Ramon Hontiveros Group VP Dennis A. Ardoza Sr., MSU and VP Mindy L. Tinoloa, ISTT.

UE CoEd conducts seminars for faculty development

THE University of the East College of Education (UE CoEd) conducts seminars for faculty development for UE on new UE faculties to upgrade their competency in the area of classroom dynamics. UE CoEd dean Dr. Perlina Marbang-Vicencio is the resource speaker for the seminar "Planning Levels of Effective and Creative Thinking" on Friday, Sept. 17, 1 to 5 p.m. The seminar on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 20 and 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. for part I, and on Monday, Nov. 22, for part II. The sessions persist for both sessions in Prof. Cynthia L. Diaz UE CoEd college secretary and master trainer of the Intel-Teach Program. The seminars' venue is the IE Conference Hall, 4th Floor, Between Sr. Bldg., Mr. Manila. (2) N.C. 65 Pasay Avenue. For inquiries, contact the IE CoEd dean's office, tel. loc. 139-5471 local 39e or 735-8531 or e-mail to edcoffice.ue.ph.

Outstanding teachers: Helping children at risk

[Second of Two]

TEN TEACHERS, four from elementary school, four from high school and two from college, received Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers Award this year.

Last week, we looked at three teachers, who taught street urchins and learners to ensure that they developed fundamental literacy and numeracy.

This week, we look at teachers who have dedicated themselves to helping others develop themselves to the fullest, whether these are victims of abuse, indigenous people, would-be dropouts or children with special needs.

Victims of abuse

Merrelita J. Labial has taught English language and literature at Xavier University High School in Cagayan de Oro City for 16 years.

Through her subject in a elective, she has kept up with the times, integrating technology in her teaching. She facilitates discussions and forums off school for her students through the internet.

I groups, e-mail and social networking sites are channels for Labial to maximize learning opportunities, her students state, to express themselves freely and reflect on their lessons. She uses also interculturality address their concerns and measure their performances.

Even more remarkable, Labial spearheads Lipad, an advocacy program for girls under the care of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)—Lipad, or Literacy Program for the Advancement of DSWD Girls, caters to victims of rape, disobedience and other abuses.

With the help of Xavier's English department and School of Education Graduate School Council, the program aims to empower the girls with literacy and communication skills and raise their self-worth.

As president of High School Community Club, Labial also works to uplift indigenous people, also in Misamis, Bukidnon, Bukidnon. Through her efforts, many teachers from indigenous group have attended all-expenses-paid training workshops. Graduating students have joined guided tours to get a taste of urban life.

Dropouts

Estrellita A. Peña has taught English at Balasahan National High School in Kalasahan, Zamboanga Sibugay, for 12 years. Despite the peace and order problem in the area, where many teachers have been abducted by secessionist groups, Peña narrows to make a difference in the lives of her students, particularly those classified as "Twelve" Dropouts at Risk of Dropping Out.

As founder of the Drop-Out Reduction Advocacy Association Inc., she has rallied students, teachers, parents, local government officials and community leaders in her community to raise funds to help over 600 her-dos to dare to finish high school. The dropout rate in the school has been cut in half—from 7.45 percent to 3.8 percent—and truancy has been reduced by 60 percent.

Sagip has other programs such calmly files in geometry support—reading remediation (A Word to Touch the World), funds for lodging and school materials (Adopt a Student) and livelihood training (Sarabi Wedding Needs).

The projects have been adopted by more than 60 schools in the region and have served as benchmark for other areas.

To the community, Peña has raised funds for a Formation Center in her church. A member of the religious group Divine Mercy Crusade, she has joined efforts to provide prisoners with spiritual, legal and financial assistance.

But the youths she saved from dropping out remain her main focus. Peña dreams of building a dormitory and learning center for them. The provincial government has already given P600,000 for this. She is asking others to sponsor and private groups for support. Winning the Metrobank Foundation award will hopefully bring her closer to her dream.

"I am an unknown teacher from an unknown province," Peña says. "This Metrobank recognition serves as an inspiration to my colleagues (that) despite the distances ... our efforts can still be recognized."

Special needs

Milabeth B. Pabona has taught SPED (Multiple Disabilities) and Home Economics at Oroquieta City Central Elementary School in Oroquieta City Mission Occidental, for 19 years.

When she started as a teacher, Pabona was "ordinary" first graders, but she found her true calling in working with special children.

"Changes crept in like summer shedding leaves for the coming winter. My once normal first graders were now replaced by children with special needs," she says. "Gazing but not seeing, communicating but not talking, going but not walking, they look typical but do not learn typically. This is quite a formidable task, but I took the challenge."

Ten pupils, aged one to 20, come from different municipalities just to be under her tutelage. Pabona teaches them to read and write through large Braille-science materials, and provides home-based instruction for those aged one to 6.

It takes a village to raise a child, particularly one with special needs, Hon. Pabona established Oroquieta Parents Advocate for Children with Disabilities, composed of parents, the government, civic groups, business and academe. It provides pupils with food, occupational therapists, health checkups, school supplies.

Pabona is also active in Synergic Alliance for Serendipity on Disabilities, a group allied with the provincial government of Misamis Occidental that provides healthcare services and equipment support (canes, walkers, wheelchairs, hearings, communication devices, etc.).

Through her efforts, the pupils have learned to read and have joined regular classes. Some went on to high school and college. Others now support themselves as farmers, preachers and musicians, or engage in livelihood projects.

Best of all, they have become "normal," Pabona says. "Seeing pupils walk on their own, discover, play like normal kids, laugh their hearts out, gave me a deep sense of fulfillment and happiness."

(Next week: Award worthy educators)

Email the author at lilen_bool@yahoo.com.

(L-R) Labial, Peña and Pabona

Solve existing problems before adding 2 years

MORE CREATIVE education financing, more investments in teachers and new curriculum based on science and mathematics are needed to improve the quality of learning.

Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, chair of the Senate education committee, stressed the need to prioritize solving problems and their solutions.

He said not attending to these problems immediately would only create bigger problems.

Angara cited the galloping number of new students, as well as the worsening lack of teachers, classrooms and textbooks.

Angara also underscored the need to put emphasis on science and technology to boost the country's international competitiveness.

Scientists, technologists and inventors would create new wealth in the information age, the senator said. The country should be dealt with immediately he said, because technology changed every three years.

Although Angara favored a 12-year education cycle, he said this would come later, pointing out that there were many basic and fundamental problems in basic education.

He said, eventually, the country would have to align the years of schooling with the rest of the world for local graduates to be competitive internationally. At present, the Philippines is among the remaining few with a 10-year basic education program.

Angara pointed out that another year of schooling entailed a huge amount. The former senator, who was Philippine president said, in 1990, when he chaired the Congressional Education Commission (Edcom), experts estimated that every additional year in basic education would cost P8-9 billion.

Now the cost had tripled to about P30 billion, he said.

He said the big problem of funding must be addressed through fresh approaches, as well as through old proposals like using the pork barrels of legislators to finance school rooms and textbooks.

Angara noted that President Benigno S. Aquino III has an existing one-year solution—government options under partnership in school building and textbook writing, which involved outsourcing out the projects.

He reiterated the proposal to impose a five-centavos tax for every text message. The tax should be collected by cellular phone companies and not passed on to users but the money generated would be spent on health and education.

If the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. was privatized, Angara suggested that at least 20 percent of the proceeds of the sale must be allocated to health and education.

Poverty and scarcity ...

Turn page G2

ed's Lab Report" in 2006 which questioned, among others, the benefits derived from the usual seatwork lab education that has been implemented since the turn of the 20th century.

Tests of effectiveness

How can substance resulted? For one school, we have seen marked increase in proficiency levels of our students, especially in science, math and reading comprehension. This is seen from their performance in national achievement tests and the National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE).

The number of students who annually pass the University of the Philippines College Admission Test has increased to about 1.8 percent of the graduating class on average. This is high compared to schools even badly situated, and relatively comparable overseas schools to the CVIF.

In the 2009 NCAE, 27 of the 113 CVIF senior students obtained an overall General Scholastic Aptitude (GSA) score in the range of 90-99 percentile rank. This means that 27 percent of the CVIF DEP students belong to the top 10 percent in the country. Of these, two students got a percentile rank of 98 and three 96.

This is also my first the single student who scored in the 90-99 percentile range in the national exam in 2001. For the different categories in the NCAE, there were 16 CVIF DEP students who got 11 (5) who got a percentile rank of 90-99 in science, 15 students in math, and 26 in reading comprehension.

These numbers are remarkable considering the economically disadvantaged background of most of the CVIF students. Moreover, the students are given lectures/discussions only 1/4 or even 1/5 of the allotted classroom time, and were not given homework in their first years of high school.

Based on available data, we note that in the NCAE 2007, the CVIF mean percentage score (mps) for general scholastic aptitude was 8.7 points above the GSA mps of schools in the area for the same year.

In the NCAE 2009, the GSA mps of CVIF was 23 points above the national mean, which has remained relatively stationary (with fluctuations) for years.

Continuing to raise the bar, we have started to benchmark our international DSF Scholastic Aptitude Test) score ranges. We have stepped into the lower bounds of SAT scores in small-list admission to good American universities such as the University of California system. However, improvement is still needed in other areas.

A wealth of insights

After over 30 years of immersion in basic education, while continuing our work in physics research and mentoring, we can definitely say that the lack of human and material resources is not the excuse we have been proved to be the key to fostering basic mental principles in the learning processes that young people undergo.

Indeed, poverty and scarcity have become wealthful of insights that we can use to enhance them, even as we study with unidimensional the many new results coming in from research in the neurosciences.

With deeper understanding of how the brain really works, we are expecting a profound transformation of educational systems and institutions within the early part of the present century.

'PREMIERS EH! SEASON 5

Model-to-entrepreneurs of De la Salle Lipa are showcasing their products and services until Sept. 17 at Level 2, Expansion Wing, Robinsons Place Lipa. The trade exhibit featuring 18 student companies is in conjunction with the Robinsons Malls' Enterprise Center initiative, which is also participated in by other colleges and universities. Nora Sarmiento, faculty in charge of La Salle 'Premiers Eh! said this was the school's 5th Entrepreneurial Career season. The said students were enlisted by their retail and mall superiors at Robinsons Place Lipa. La Salle 'Premiers Eh! Season 5 offers a wide variety of homegrown delights and gourmet dishes and retail of shirts apparel and services, complementing the offerings available at Robinsons Place Lipa.

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INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

WWF PHILIPPINES

LEGEND OF THE PONY'S TEARS

Chapter 4: Kindred Spirits

(THE STORY SO FAR... Little Wolf goes to visit the stable. A trader has brought some horses, including a beautiful pony, to his country farm. When Little Wolf approaches the pony, the pony runs up out of front legs and looks wildly. The boy's uncle comes around just in time to see the horse's hooves come down instead of Little Wolf.)

By Rhoy Madrid
Illustrated By Vicki Wallace

AS THE pony brought his hooves down, his eyes met those Little Wolf's. The pony saw gentleness there. And sadness...and fear...and pain...Little Wolf's eyes mirrored his own.

The pony stilled his weight. His hooves touched once the dirty beneath. The pony stepped his breathing and eased off. Flecks of foam dripped the pony's muzzle. His nostrils flared and his haunches quivered.

Little Wolf instinctively held out his hand and rubbed the pony's muzzle. Gradually, it calmed him down the pony's spine.

"Whoa," Little Wolf whispered. "It's all right. I am your friend."

The pony sniffed Little Wolf's hand. Then Little Wolf prossed his face against the pony's face. The two stood together, each breathing in the other's breath.

"Boy!" the trader shouted. "Get away from that horse! He's dangerous."

Little Wolf looked up to see the trader with rounded expressions on their faces.

"He's not dangerous," Little Wolf protested. "He was just frightened. See how calm he is now?"

"Maybe now," the trader agreed. "But what horses what he'll do next. That one's a rogue for sure!"

"Little Wolf, [is as the trader says," his uncle instructed.

Reluctantly, Little Wolf moved away from the pony. As soon as he did, the trader threw a saddle around its back. The pony began to thrash wildly. The man tightened the rope around the pony's neck and pulled. The harder the pony kicked, the tighter the noose became. Finally, the trader subdued the pony.

"See what I mean?" the trader yelled. "We use rope break the animal. He's a rogue for sure. I'll have to get rid of him."

"You can't treat him that way!" said Uncle Wolf protested. "You're scaring him. You have to be gentle with him."

"I don't get time to see mean a rogue pony," the trader said.

"Little Wolf, you are an expert on horses. Love," his uncle admonished. "If anyone finished giving our wisdom, go and our cattle to your aunt."

Little Wolf's cheeks burned. He knew that his uncle was scolding him.

"No, Uncle," Little Wolf said. "But I was observed his name and went into the horse.

"Here let's do some horse healing!" the trader said.

While the two men talked, the old packhorse moved closer to the pony.

"You've gone and done it now!" the old horse whispered. "You're in a heap of trouble."

"I just did what you told me to do!" the pony whispered back.

"I didn't say to you to kill some bodo!" the packhorse said. The old horse chuckled softly. "But then now you remember. You should have seen them here!"

"I didn't try to kill anyone," the pony said. "Besides, I could never hurt the small human. He is good. He called me his friend."

"I told you all humans are bad!" the old horse cried. "He's not your friend. You better heed my words!"

"I listened to you once," the pony replied. "Look where it got me!"

"Just yourself," muttered the horse. "You made my words, you can't be friends with a human. No good will come of it!"

The little pony ignored the bitter old horse. He knew in his heart that he and the boy were kindred spirits. He had found a friend!

"If you won't listen to me about the small human, you better listen to me about the trouble you're in!" the old horse said.

"What do you mean?" the little pony asked.

"See you dead? Didn't you hear the trader?" the horse asked. "He's gettin' rid of you. You know what that means!"

"He's going to sell me?" the pony guessed.

"That's not what he means to do with you!" the old horse said. "See never you mind. I have a plan." The old horse leaned closer to the little pony and whispered his plan into his ear. "So what I say," hissed the old horse. "And you might get out of this with your body still on."

The little pony nodded and gulped. He didn't like the sound of that.

"Here they come," the old horse whispered. "Do exactly as I told you."

"Do we have a deal?" the trader asked.

"It is agreed," answered Little Wolf's uncle. "The new horses are very fine, but I think you got the best of the bargain by me agreeing to take the old packhorse off your hands!"

"Why, that packhorse is gonna croak," the trader protested. "He ain't pretty, but he's got a strong back. Good work, too." The trader poked the old horse's stomach. Suddenly the horse slumped down on the stones and fell.

"Here!" the packhorse shouted in a language that only horses can understand.

"Umm!" the man yelled.

The pony's heart was pounding with fear. He told the old horse's plan really work!

Next Thurs: A Harrow Escape

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Activity guide

Reading and comprehension

— The title of this chapter is "Kindred Spirits." What does that mean? Which characters in the story are kindred spirits? Write at least two reasons why that you think these two characters are kindred spirits.

If you notice, some of the characters are incorrect grammar or have an unusual way of talking within the dialogue. This is called a dialect. It can up the word dialect in this dictionary. Can example of dialect is the old packhorse's way of talking. How you ever hear people talk like the old horse?

A newspaper connection

— In this chapter there is a lot of dialogue with characters speaking to one another. Look in today's comparison to find examples of people saying something sarcastically or expressing themselves in other ways.

NEW DOCTORS TO THE BARRIOS

Ninety-two graduates of the PG Foundation Inc.'s Bagong Bohol para sa Bayan program passed recently the Philippine Licensure Examination for Physicians. The new doctors will serve in remote communities for two years under the Department of Health's Doctors to the Barrios program. The new doctors are Arabelle D. Cacho, Cheryllo Cortes, Jayfrexon Cubayog, Evelle Raymond S. Claudio, Rachnell Indanggoy, Charlene M. Cuenco, Lynette T. Jamero, Ardi M.L. Tan, Jessi Rotoras, Fiona Christianne Jesus Sevo Pinzon, Mae Ivi S. Arida, Evangeline D. Cuadrona, Rodney Bernales, Andrew Antonio and Nenard Dandoy. Also in the picture are Bohol Governor Edgar Chatto, Dr. Leopoldo Vega, president, and Carmelo Arbiol, PG medical board chair. Editor's note: Also passed this board are Nenard Elloro Pinzon, Jay Rivera Rodrigues, Pennie Nimfa Jr. and Zhandi Uneng.

Biotech research key to development, improvement of Filipinos' lives

BIOTECHNOLOGY could help solve the country's most pressing problems by increasing food production, prolonging and improving the quality of Filipinos' lives, and restoring the ailing natural environment.

This was stressed by Sen. Edgardo J. Angara in his keynote speech during the 2010 Novartis Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) held recently at the Ateneo Institute of Management (AIM) in Makati City.

Angara said biotechnology could help farmers improve plant growth and get higher yields through biofertilizers and biocontrol agents.

Crops could be improved to remain powerful properties and be resistant to pests and diseases, thus reducing expenditures on fertilizers and pesticides.

Marker technologies could speed up the selection and production of more effective hybrids, said Angara, chair of the Senate committees on agriculture and food, as well as science and technology.

Angara added that the livestock sector could benefit in the areas of production of vaccines, diagnostics and fertilization.

Biotechnology, the senator said, could be the key to agriculture's productivity and to fighting hunger and poverty.

Angara said biotechnology could also remediate the environment by eliminating pollutants and wastes from industrial and household activities.

Some biological agents could remove contaminants from rivers and other bodies of water.

He pointed out that the Philippines was one of the world's most biologically rich countries.

National Scientist Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz said marine biotechnology harnessed marine resources in the development of life-saving medicines, with about 30 new candidates drugs in the pipeline.

Cruz said biotechnology was appropriate for developing nations because of fresh rich and diverse biological resources and sufficient grounding in the biological sciences and technologies, forty years for biotechnology research and industrial application were ripe time for other high technologies.

Molecular biologist Dr. Francisco S. Ouano Jr. said immune cell therapy, a form of stem cell therapy, could enhance the efficacy of cancer treatment with almost no side effects.

Science Undersecretary Fortunato dela Peña said innovations were engines of economic development. For this reason, the Philippines was growing up for an innovation-based economy.

He announced the program Philippine National Innovation Strategy or "Filipinnovation."

Maui Arroyo, founder and chief executive officer of the country's first biotechnology consulting firm Hybridlagen Consulting Inc., recommended training local scientists in the fundamentals of technology entrepreneurship and intellectual property protection (IPP).

Ramon Bacolcoy Ilustre Memorial called for collaboration in advancing biotech in the country.

BioCamp is a pioneering biotechnology academy organized by research-based Swiss health-care company Novartis for entrepreneurial training local scientists in the fundamentals of technology entrepreneurship and intellectual property protection (IPP).

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Christine Liwanag, corporate affairs and market access director, Novartis Healthcare Philippines, said through BioCamp, they aimed to help build up the country's pool of skilled scientists to improve Philippine healthcare and drive national progress.

Since 2007, Novartis Philippines has partnered with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in organizing annual local BioCamps. Other partners are InterScout Property Philippines (IP Philippines) and Hybridlagen Consulting.